MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 JULY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--Jerusalem radio reported that Israeli planes attacked makeshift bridges across the Litani and Az-Zahrani Rivers on 22 July, scoring accurate hits, and that all aircraft returned safely to base. Beirut radio noted that a number of bridges were destroyed in the raids, which caused at least 50 casualties, including 18 dead. It said most of the casualties were civilians and reported that scores of civilian cars were destroyed on the Az-Zahrani bridge with their passengers inside. Some of the casualties were "horribly mutilated," the radio added. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israeli aircraft also struck at the Az-Zahrani oil refinery, although Jerusalem radio said IDF sources denied this. The air raids on the Az-Zahrani area followed a 10-hour local cease-fire, reported by Jerusalem radio, during which the Lebanese Red Cross worked to remove the bodies of about 20 people from the debris of the bridge bombed previously by the Israeli Air Force.

According to the Voice of Palestine, Israeli artillery renewed its intensive shelling of Palestinian targets during the afternoon and evening, hitting Al-'Ayshiyah, 'Arab Salim, An-Nabatiyah, Ar-Rashidiyah Camp, Al-Ghaziyah and other targets. The radio also reported that the Palestinians foiled two Israeli landing attempts during the night of 22-23 July. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported further Palestinian shell and rocket fire on the eastern and western sectors of northern Israel. It said Katyusha rockets damaged the electricity network in western Galilee and noted that the Palestinians fired over 100 shells and rockets at the eastern sector during the day. The radio reported no Israeli casualties in the attacks. AFP cited a UN spokesman as confirming reports that Israel has concentrated unusually large numbers of troops and artillery in the Christian-held border strip. Controversy has continued over the Palestinian claim to have captured an Israeli soldier, with the Voice of Palestine naming the prisoner and Jerusalem radio denying that any Israeli soldier has been captured and indicating that he may be a missing civilian.

Begin Remarks, Cabinet Meeting--Jerusalem radio quoted Prime Minister Menahem Begin as telling residents of northern Israel that a day will come when no Katyushas will fall and revealing that the IDF destroyed three Palestinian 130-mm artillery pieces during its operations the previous day. Speaking on a tour of three northern settlements, Begin revealed that in his talks with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, he had not used the term "cease-fire" but rather the phrase "peaceful relations with Lebanon." According to Jerusalem television, the Israeli Cabinet is to discuss military and political aspects of the Lebanese crisis as well as the question of U.S.-Israeli relations in a special session on 23 July.

Israeli Military Chief's Comment--Itim quoted Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan as telling a press conference that Israel must retain the initiative in its battle with Palestinian "terrorists" and must not return to the past by permitting them to regain it. In an interview reported by Jerusalem radio, Air Force Commander Maj Gen David 'Ivri said the Israeli pilots were careful to avoid causing unnecessary civilian casualties in their 17 July air attack on Beirut. 'Ivri also said that the Syrian plane downed over Lebanon on 13 February was a MiG-25. In another interview, broadcast by IDF radio, he said the Palestinians used SAM-9 missiles during one recent Israeli air attack.

Israeli eaction to Weinberger--Jerusalem radio spoke of "amazement" in Jerusalem at U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's remarks that Israel has undermined the Habib mission by bombing both the Iraqi nuclear reactor and Beirut. The radio reported that political circles in Jerusalem consider that Israel has acted with patience and moderation, giving Habib sufficient time to solve the problems--although he has so far failed to secure the removal of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon.

The circles also regard Weinberger's definition of Saudi Arabia as a moderate country as either naive or evil in light of the Saudi attitude toward Israel. A statement by the prime minister's office, carried by ITIM, noted that after the Israeli attacks on the reactor and Beirut, Begin met several times with Habib, who never expressed any views similar to Weinberger's.

Habib Mission--Beirut radio reported that U.S. envoy Habib arrived in Beirut on the morning of 22 July and subsequently met with President Ilyas Sarkis. On the same day, Riyadh radio reported his arrival in Jidda. According to Jerusalem television, President Ronald Reagan has entrusted Habib with a message to President Hafiz al-Asad proposing that the Syrian leader meet with Reagan in Europe. The message has not yet been delivered, the radio said, because Habib knows that Al-Asad would decline Reagan's offer in light of the present situation in Lebanon.

Saudi Offer to Lebanon--In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Lebanon disclosed that the Saudi Cabinet has decided to offer Lebanon $120 million to help pay for the damage to its oil installations caused by Israeli air raids.

Egyptian-Sudanese Statement--In a joint statement issued at the close of their talks in Cairo, Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and Sudanese President Ja'fur Numayri denounced the Israeli aggression against Lebanon as contrary to the spirit of peace, an overt violation of Lebanese sovereignty, a threat to regional security and stability and an invitation to more foreign interference in Lebanon's affairs. The statement, transmitted by MENA, urged the "international sides concerned" to stop giving any assistance to Israel that will encourage it to persist in its aggressive policy.

Iran

Peykar Members Executed--A central public prosecutor's office statement, carried by Tehran radio, said 15 Pehkar members were executed for various antigovernment activities. The radio also said nine leftists were executed for armed activity against the republic and for throwing grenades.

Majlis Candidates, Official Attacked--Shiraz radio reported that Majlis candidate Mohyeddin Fazel Arandi escaped an assassination attempt near Eqlid when his car was riddled with approximately 300 bullets by "U.S. lackeys and local feudalists." Arandi was not injured, the radio said. According to Tehran radio, Majlis candidate from Esfahan Hasan Beheshti was killed on 23 July during an attack on his home by "American agents." AFP reported that Shergerf Nakha'i, under secretary of state in the Education Ministry, escaped unharmed when gunmen opened fire on him as he left his home.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that in a clash on the Marivan front, Iranian forces destroyed an Iraqi battalion consisting of at least 500 men and a special company consisting of 100-150 men. It said Iranian forces then captured the strategic heights of Senam, taking the Iraqi battalion commander and 65 Iraqi soldiers as prisoners of war. The radio also said Iranian guerrilla groups gained control of the Sayyid Sadiq-Panjwin road in Iraq on 21 July, following which the Sayyid Sadiq garrison was destroyed. An INA commentator described recent reports emanating from Iran on the occupation of Biabah and the advance toward Tawilah as a "new lie in the series of lies" told by Iran. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, transmitted by INA, said Iranian forces shelled the Khawr 'Abdallah region from the outskirts of Khosrowabad but claimed that most of the shells fell in the matter.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 141 *23 July 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab Defense Council To Hold Meeting 23 Jul A 1
'Arafat, Junblatt Meet, Make Statements 21 Jul [VOP] A 1
Rome Paper Interviews 'Arafat on U.S., Israel A 1
'Arafat Meets French Ambassador, Others 22 Jul [VOP] A 2
Fatah Member Comments on Philip Habib Mission [VOP] A 2
London PLO Official Condemns Israeli Raids A 3
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Jul]
Security Committee Denies Rumors of Looting [VOP] A 4
Palestinian Spokesman Affirms Capture of Israeli [VOP] A 4
Arab League Renews ADF Mandate in Lebanon A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Calls for Arab Nuclear Bomb [17 Jul] C 1

UAE

President Says Financial Aid to Lebanon Not Enough C 2

YAR

President Orders Medical Relief to Lebanon C 2

EGYPT

'Ali Addresses People's Assembly on Lebanon D 1
Mubarak Address on July Revolution Anniversary D 1
People's Assembly Takes Action on Lawyers Issue D 3
Approves Report D 3
Amends Association Law D 3

IRAQ

Text of 19 Jul Saddam Husayn Press Conference E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communique 406 E 21

LEBANON

Saudis To Provide $140 Million in Support G 1
Reportage on Military Developments 22 Jul G 1
Further Report G 2
Israelis Attempt Landing G 2
Parliament Calls For Use of Arab 'Oil Weapon' G 2
Haddad Urges Lebanese To Rise Against 'Occupiers' G 2
Al-Wazzan Briefs Delegates to Defense Council G 3

SYRIA

TISHRIN Comments on Missiles, U.S., Soviet Union H 1

ISRAEL

Begin, Others Reactor to Weinberger's Remarks I 1
23 Jul Announcement I 1
Jerusalem's 'Amazement' Cited I 1
Other Views I 1
U.S. Position Criticized I 2
Begin Visits Northern Settlements on 22 Jul I 3
Begin Answers Criticism of Lebanon Policy I 3
Petition Urges Government To End Lebanon Attacks I 4
Military Denies Bombing Lebanese Oil Facilities I 4
IDF Denies PLO Charges of Attempted Landing I 4
Peres To Refrain From Arguing With Begin I 4

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

CEAO Defense Pact Session Begins in Dakar P 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Energy Minister Nabi Interviewed on Energy Issues Q 1

LIBYA

Sudan To Be Rejected at Arab Defense Meeting Q 3
Al-Qadhdhafi Views Lebanon Issues, Habib Mission Q 3
Al-Bashshari Interviewed on Anti-Libyan Campaigns Q 4
[Kuwait AL-WATAN 22 Jul]

TUNISIA

Bourguiba, Communist Party Leader Meet 18 Jul Q 5
President Lifts Measures Banning Communist Party Q 5

EAST AFRICA

DJIBOUTI

Opposition Leader Interviewed in Paris by LE MONDE [14 Jul] R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Government To Pay Reparations to Nigeria S 1

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Dacko Directs Army To Disperse Illegal Gatherings S 1
Oppositionist Condemnation S 1
French Troops Accused of Bombing Involvement S 2
Former Bokassa Commander Receives Death Sentence S 2

RWANDA

Communique on Moi Visit to Kigali 20-22 Jul S 2

ZAIRE

AZAP Reports on U.S. Ambassador at Trade Fair S 4

WEST AFRICA

MALI

Deliberations With SFRY Delegation End 22 Jul T 1

NIGERIA

NPP Refuses Resignations of Two Ministers T 1
NPN Statement Commends Shagari Reappointments T 1
PRP Asks NPN, NPP To Reconsider Stands on Accord T 1
Commentary Praises Handling of Cameroon Dispute T 2
Correction to FRG Jet Aircraft Acquisition T 3

TOGO

Nigerian Delegation Meets With Eyadema 22 Jul T 3

ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL TO HOLD MEETING 23 JUL

LD200850 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0826 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Tunis, 20 Jul (KUNA)--Arab League sources said today that Arab foreign affairs and defense ministers will hold an urgent meeting here at the request of the PLO, most likely on 23 July, to discuss the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. These sources told KUNA last night that the Arab League has decided to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab defense council on 23 July and that contacts are continuing with the league member countries for this purpose.

'ARAFAT, JUNBLATT MEET, MAKE STATEMENTS 21 JUL

NC221236 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Within the framework of the joint coordination between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, last night Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Central Political Council of the National Movement, and Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, the council's executive secretary. On the Palestinian side the meeting was attended by brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu al-Walid [Col Sa'd Sayil], members of Fatah Central Committee.

After the meeting, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the discussions regarding the cease-fire are continuing with the United Nations although we have conveyed our agreement in principle to end the shelling across the Lebanese border, proceeding from our commitment to the Arab summit resolutions not to use the Lebanese border in any operations against the enemy.

Abu 'Ammar noted that a Palestinian-Syrian meeting will be held today to discuss the joint views which will be presented to the joint Arab defense council.

Regarding the bombardment of civilian positions by the Zionist enemy and the attempts to drive a wedge between the Lebanese and the Palestinian masses and the joint forces, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The more the enemy increases his aggressions the more cohesion with the masses increases, because it was not a superficial cohesion but one baptized in the blood of the martyrs of the two peoples, who fell in defense of the Arab nation's dignity, future, existence and glory.

Brother Walid Junblatt said that his meeting with Brother Abu 'Ammar was very important, particularly as it was held under critical circumstances in which both the Palestinian revolution and the National Movement were being subjected to unprecedented attacks by the Zionist enemy. Brother Junblatt affirmed the full coordination and cooperation in all fields to ward off the dangers and confront all eventualities.

ROME PAPER INTERVIEWS 'ARAFAT ON U.S., ISRAEL

AU222008 Rome ANSA in English 1940 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Milan, 22 Jul (ANSA)--The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat disclosed here today that he has a "constant exchange of correspondence" with high-ranking officials in the Vatican on Middle Eastern and Palestinian problems, and on Jerusalem in particular. Interviewed for today's edition of the Milan daily, IL GIORNO, 'Arafat also charged the United States with being Israel's direct accomplice in the "war of aggression" now waged against the Palestinian people for many years.

The interview was held only a few hours after last Thursday's massive Israeli bombardment of Beirut, but 'Arafat's gravest charges were levelled against the Israeli raid which destroyed Iraq's nuclear plant at Tamuz in June.

According to 'Arafat, "if it is true that the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear power station is a crime violating international law, it is also true that the same crime has opened the eyes of the whole Arab nation". "Without any possibility of misunderstanding, (the Arab nation) has now realized that the gravest threat to its existence comes from Israel and its expansionistic ambitions over the whole region".

'Arafat also read the Mideast shuttle of the Reagan adminstration's special envoy Philip Habib as an attempt to "put together a plot, which for us, means nothing more than continuing the aggression". But he described the Vatican's attitude towards the Palestinians' cause as "positive". "The Vatican", he told IL GIORNO, "has condemned the aggressions to which the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples are subjected, just as it has condemned the violations perpetrated against Jerusalem".

"On this topic", he added, "there is a constant exchange of correspondence between myself and those in charge at the Vatican".

Asked if the Arab oil producers will continue to accept payment for their crude in dollars after the new abyss opening up between the two sides, 'Arafat was diplomatic. He said that the problem was studied during the recent Arab summit and at recent ministerial level meetings. He added that the PLO had submitted an economic plan under which the Arab nation would put all its resources in the service of political strategy--"including oil and petro-dollars", 'Arafat specified.

'ARAFAT MEETS FRENCH AMBASSADOR, OTHERS 22 JUL

NC230842 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday met with the Islamic Grouping and the Committee for the Preservation of the South in the presence of Brothers Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, PLO Executive Committee member, and Abu al-Hawl and Hani al-Hasan, members of the Fatah Central Committee.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with the latest developments of the current war with the Zionist enemy and the UN Security Council resolution on a cease-fire. The discussions also dealt with a number of issues affecting the citizens' livelihood in the wake of the bestial air raids on civilian populated areas as well as a number of local Arab and international political subjects. The conferees also appraised the statement issued by the Council of Bishops on the Israeli air raids on peaceful areas. The meeting lasted 3 hours.

In addition, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar last night received French Ambassador to Lebanon Louis Fernand Delamare. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the barbaric Zionist acts of aggression against southern Lebanon and residential areas in Beirut.

In the evening Brother Abu 'Ammar received a delegation of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party, led by Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the developments of the situation, particularly in the war taking place between the joint forces and the Zionist enemy. Dr ar-Rafi'i praised the heroic role the Palestinian revolution is playing in defense of the Arab nation.

FATAH MEMBER COMMENTS ON PHILIP HABIB MISSION

NC230910 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Commenting on U.S. envoy Philip Habib's movements, Brother Majid Abu Sharar, member of Fatah Central Committee, has stated that the U.S. envoy is simultaneously acting as an adversary and judge. The Israeli policy and acts of aggression constitute a crystallization of an American security plan which the U.S. administration is trying to impose on the Arab area.

He said that Habib is not playing the part of a mediator but rather represents the number-one enemy of our nation. Therefore, our dealings with him must be on this basis.

Brother Abu Sharar then asked: Why is Habib still being received here and there? He said that the development of the conflict and the clarity of the American role in the conflict--a role which is now clearer than at any time before--requires the Arab states to refrain from meeting and holding talks with him, especially now that it has been proved that we are not only receiving the enemy's increasing blows but are also increasingly dealing hard blows to the enemy and forcing the inhabitants of the enemy's settlements to leave the settlements.

LONDON PLO OFFICIAL CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAIDS

PM221513 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWAST in Arabic 21 Jul 81 p 1

[Correspondent's report: "PLO Memorandum to Britain: Aggression Has Foiled Political Efforts and Pushed the Area to the Brink of War"]

[Text] London--PLO representative in London Nabil ar-Ramlawi has submitted an official memorandum to the British Foreign Office regarding Israeli attacks on civilians in Lebanon.

It has been learned that the memo urges the European countries to impose economic sanctions on Israel and warns that the recent attacks have aborted the international political efforts and that the Palestinian people are now compelled to devote all their capabilities and resources to the military option in order to restore their rights following the genocidal war which Israel is waging against them.

Mr ar-Ramlawi will deliver a similar memo the the Government of the Irish Republic. He has also contacted all the members of the British House of Commons, who will be invited to an urgent discussion of the savage aggression. The magazine PALESTINE REPORT yesterday published a special issue which it distrubuted to party leaders, journalists and foreign missions.

The PLO office also issued a statement calling on Europe to take firm measures against Israel following its raids on Lebanon. Ar-Ramlawi said in the statement that Europe and the United States must not be content to merely expresss concern over the Israeli raids on Lebanon, in which 300 civilians were killed and 800 others injured.

The statement said: "We demand deeds and not words. We want Europe and the United States to impose severe sanctions against Israel."

The statement added: We have supported Europe in its efforts to find a peaceful solution for the Palestine problem, but in view of Begin's prevarications and procrastinations and his choice of the military solution the PLO sees no alternative to directing all its resources and efforts toward a military confrontation with Israel.

The statement said: Any political solution--if such solution exists--must be based on a "change" in the Israeli policy toward the Palestinians. If Israel rejects such a change, it should not complain if we reply to military violence with similar violence and armed resistance.

Ar-Ramlawi affirmed in the statement that an escalation of violence and the possibilities of an outbreak of large-scale war in the Middle East cannot be excuded unless Europe and the United States recognize that the Zionists must be punished when they do not respect international law and the Palestinian people's rights.

SECURITY COMMITTEE DENIES RUMORS OF LOOTING

NC211320 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1152 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Brothers, a responsible source in the Higher Security Committee has stated the following: Reports and rumors have been disseminated about lootings following the Israeli raid on residential areas in western Beirut. It concerns us to announce to all citizens, both Lebanese and Palestinians, that right from the beginning we carried out a number of firm measures that would not allow any tampering with the citizens' security and stability so as to ensure the safety of their property. In view of these rumors, the Higher Security Committee announces that absolutely no act of looting has occurred. The fighters, the joint security organs and the members of the Palestinian armed struggle have been guarding and guaranteeing the property of the citizens, who have responded splendidly and participated in eliminating the disorder and confusion and the attempts to exploit the conditions emerging following the aggression.

We call on any popular or official body that has any specific information about the reported lootings or excesses against the citizens' security to notify us so that we can chase the culprits down and take the necessary measures or publish this information in the Lebanese press so that the citizens will be aware of the reality of the situation.

[Signed] The Higher Security Committee

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN AFFIRMS CAPTURE OF ISRAELI

JN221910 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The Palestinian military spokesman has stressed his utmost concern over accuracy in all military statements and on what he states, particularly with regard to the question of the Israeli corporal who fell in the hands of our forces and whose capture by our forces has been denied by the Zionist military spokesman. The Palestinian spokesman confirms the capture of the Zionist corporal, whose name is David Menashe.

ARAB LEAGUE RENEWS ADF MANDATE IN LEBANON

JN230627 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Tunis--At the end of a meeting in Tunis yesterday of the permanent representatives of member states, the Arab League Council decided to renew the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon. Reports say that the ADF's mandate has been reviewed for a further 6 months at Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' request.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CALLS FOR ARAB NUCLEAR BOMB

GF221244 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Jul 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Yes, We Want a Nuclear Bomb"]

[Excerpts] Saudi Arabia announced yesterday that it will fund the reconstruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor, which was destroyed in a Zionist air raid on 7 June. Undoubtedly, this decision is commendable. It stressed the link between the two fraternal countries and also the joint responsibility toward an installation which, although situated in Iraq, is of a national nature. Moreover, the decision indicated a determination to continue the march in the nuclear sphere, and this is a positive sign.

We want to manufacture an atomic bomb. We want to manufacture it openly and overtly without any reservations before the International Atomic Energy Authority or any other international body. Moreover, we should not be timid about having a bomb. Those who possess this weapon in Washington, Moscow, PRC, Europe and Israel are not timid about having it. To be more specific, what motivates us to call for the possession of this weapon is that Israel possesses it. By using this weapon and the most advanced U.S. weapons, Israel wants to defeat and humiliate us. It even wants Arab weapons--as former Israeli Defense Minister General Weizman said yesterday--to be confined to rifles and bows and arrows, weapons which humanity knew before recorded history. Israel wants us to be primitive and simple while it possesses "tanks and aircraft," to quote Weizman again.

Therefore, we want the Saudi decision to be the start of serious consideration for an Arab nuclear bomb. This does not mean that we would use it, only that we would prevent Israel from using its against us. We know that Israel--through total cooperation with the United States --will use all its might to prevent us from having a nuclear bomb. However, we have to employ the same method either to possess this weapon or to destroy Israel's. Israel does not keep this weapon for decoration: Rather, the weapon will be used to kill millions of Arabs at the appropriate time. All those who can read know that Israel took its nuclear bombs out of hiding on the third day of the October war on General Dayan's return from the Golan front, where his army was retreating to the valleys of these heights.

This means that Israel's nuclear bombs are for action, not for parade or ostentation or even for the sake of membership in the nuclear club.

In this light, Arab possession of this deterrent weapon has become an urgent national necessity, despite the knowledge that we already possess a natural weapon --which is not of less efficiency of capability --and that is Arab unity and solidarity. Nevertheless, we regret to say that Arabs are not working to get this weapon or even to desire it. We doubt that they even want to possess this weapon. The problem for them is who among the Arabs would possess it and whether it is admissible for this weapon --in the Arab equations, trivialities and trifles--to be here and not there, or even to exist at all.

Therefore, the U.S. "friends" and the Israeli enemies will not let us have anything other than rifles and bows and arrows, except for the tanks and aircraft we use against ourselves or in parades or for useless show.

Nevertheless, and amid the bloody and violent Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, we call on Arab governments to seek this weapon and to possess it.

UAE

PRESIDENT SAYS FINANCIAL AID TO LEBANON NOT ENOUGH

JN222118 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in English 1600 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Jul (QNA)--United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has called upon the Arabs to do more than simply offering financial assistance to Lebanese and Palestinian peoples who are suffering from the daily Israeli aggression.

"Financial aid to compensate these peoples for their recent losses is not enough and the Arabs should employ all their potentials to confront the war of annihilation conducted by the enemy in Lebanon", the president told heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Abu Dhabi at a meeting late last night.

"Money could be compensated but not the human life, and we have to adopt a more serious stance using our huge potentials which are in abundance and more than any nation of the world", he added.

Shaykh Zayid asked how the Arabs could continue in "sitting idly while the enemy is striking at an Arab country (Lebanon)".

"How could we face our future generations who will no doubt deplore our negligence and silence towards the daily violation of our lands and the continued occupation (of Palestine and other parts of the Arab world)", he went on saying. Shaykh Zayid said the Arab nation should not wait to see the problem of Palestine repeating itself in Lebanon or any other Arab country.

He urged the Arab leaders to reaffirm "our nation's mere existence and defend our dignity which has been badly insulted". The president, however, predicted that a bright future was awaiting the Arab nation if "we employ our potentials and restore our past glories and the usurped Arab rights".

YAR

PRESIDENT ORDERS MEDICAL RELIEF TO LEBANON

JN222208 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received this evening Health Minister Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab. The brother president gave instructions to the brother minister to immediately send quantities of medical supplies and a medical team to participate in treating those who have been wounded in the recurrent Israeli raids against Beirut, the aggressions against the positions of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces and the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

'ALI ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON LEBANON

NC230757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)--Egypt has asked the Arab brothers to rise above all the sensitivities and differences and to concentrate every positive effort to rescue Lebanon and the Arab interests there, foremost the Palestinian people's interests. This was contained in a statement made by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali before this evening's session of the People's Assembly. In the statement, 'Ali said that Egypt reaffirms its firm stances on the situation in Lebanon, stances which are based on the need to keep hands off Lebanon, suspend suspicious external interferences in Lebanon's affairs, unite Arab efforts to assist in reaching a rapid working plan bolstering the legitimate authority in Lebanon on the basis of the 1976 Riyadh summit conference resolutions and attain mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians. This will enable the completion of the peace process, the achievement of a durable and just solution for the Palestinian people's issue, and the abandonment of the use of force and the operations of extermination. He emphasized the need for a decisive Arab stand toward the so-called Syrian deterrent in Lebanon, which has been transformed into a deterrent to the Arab force on the land of Lebanon without any positive role for protecting it.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt, on the basis of its national responsibility, calls on the brothers to rise above all the sensitivities and differences and concentrate every positive effort to rescue Lebanon and the Arab interests there, foremost the Palestinian people's interests.

He added: The PLO representatives in Cairo have conveyed to us the Palestinian command's request for urgent medical aid to deal with the situation in Lebanon. The decision made by the higher political leadership in Egypt has been an immediate response to the Palestinian demands on the basis of Egypt's responsibility to its brothers in all Arab countries.

In his statement the deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed that operations of violence cannot help in the peace process. Egypt will exert its utmost efforts in all the international spheres until peace is achieved and the escalation of the acts of violence are stopped so that all of us will be free to attend to the main issue of peace in the area and the issue of the fraternal Palestinian people.

He expressed the hope that the People's Assembly will again urge the brothers in the (?Sudanese) People's Assembly and the fraternal Arab parliaments to assume responsibility and prompt the leaderships for immediate action before a reality that does not serve peace is imposed on the area.

The statement has been referred to the Arab affairs committee for study and the issuance of a report on it to be submitted to the assembly.

MUBARAK ADDRESS ON JULY REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

NC221033 [Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0912 GMT on 22 July--in a linkup with other Cairo-area transmitters--carries live the address of Vice President Husni Mubarak at the celebration at the Central Committee hall in Cairo marking the 29th anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution.

In his address Husni Mubarak reminds his audience of the important role the 23d July revolution played, a role that will remain a landmark and a bright page in Egyptian history because it expresses Egypt's and the Arab and Islamic nation's desire for freedom and dignity.

Mubarak then renews the pledge that Egypt will remain in the vanguard of the forces against imperialism, oppression and domination and that it remains an oasis of freedom, opening the doors for those who seek refuge.

Following his comments on the important role the armed forces is playing in development, Mubarak says the following on the Sinai force and the Israeli action in southern Lebanon:

"As far as we are concerned, peace is a strategic aim and a natural option because it is the alternative which is consistent with our culture, values and ideals. It is the course of those having confidence in themselves and in their capability to confront various challenges, because a coward or hesitant person resorts to vague situations. He is unable to shoulder the burdens of the war and he is not worthy of waging the peace battle, which is no less ferocious and violent than the war battle. Rather, it might be more serious and more complex in view of the importance of the required decisions, the difficult options and the preferences among the available alternatives.

"We are determined to relentlessly continue the peace battle. A few days ago the agreement was signed on the formation of the multinational peace-keeping force, so that it will ascertain the compliance with the provisions of the security arrangements on both sides of the border. Needless to say, it is not an occupation force deployed in either territory of the two countries. It is not a combat force, but it is a peacekeeping force like those formed by the United Nations in several similar cases. Consequently, its presence constitutes no restriction on Egyptian sovereignty, because Sinai is an inseparable part of Egyptian territory where the state exercises its sovereignty and control and assumes its tasks for construction and development. Meanwhile, we adhere to the need to following the steps of the comprehensive settlement. Because what has been done so far, although it has been historic achievement which must not be belittled, is a first step along the course that must be supported or complemented by other steps, spreading the fruits of peace over all parts of the area and achieving for all the peoples in the area their aspired-to prosperity, stability and assurance. We firmly believe that it is necessary for all the parties that the next step must be toward solving the Palestinian question, which is the core of the conflict. This fact cannot be ignored or disregarded.

"We are neither discouraged nor disheartened to see that Israel has returned to its prepeace mentality, disavowed the spirit of the historic reconciliation, which began with the president's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977, and resorted to reckless acts against this or that Arab country, seeking temporary gains which will soon evaporate and disappear before the first real test. This is because the challenge we are facing is that we should rise to the level of events, get rid of the complexes and vestiges of the past, look to the future with hope and readily accept the consequences and responsibilities of peace, which are no less grave than the consequences and sacrifices of war.

"If some Israeli quarters have failed to comprehend the concept of peace and have remained a captive of the sad past we believe that it is inevitable for the Israeli people to realize the gravity of these acts and their destructive effects on the course of peace."

Vice President Mubarak concludes his address by pointing to the great achievements brought about by the people and government, particularly emphasizing the increase in the number of jobs and salaries. He also points to the recent agreements signed with France and the United States on nuclear cooperation, cooperation that will go a long way to ease dependence on oil.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TAKES ACTION ON LAWYERS ISSUE

Approves Report

NC221652 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The People's Assembly, meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, today resumed its debate on the factfinding committee's report on the president's letter regarding the Lawyers' Association Council.

At the beginning of the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Nabawi Isma'il, answering a request for a briefing on the matter, explained the recent developments in the Lawyers Association and the resulting circumstances. He said that the actions of the Association's council are not in harmony with our values and principles. It includes a number of communists, claimants of Nasirism and the remaining lackeys of the centers of power. All these, he said, have adopted certain attitudes toward the July and May revolutions and are always trying to strike at our national course. He added that the council has become a mouthpiece for the rejection front and for the expression of grudges.

The deputy prime minister noted that the Association's council has not achieved any of the principles on the basis of which it joined the election. It has also failed to fulfill the demands of the vast base of lawyers on the questions of housing, medical care, taxes and the handling of the lawyers' problems in the public sector.

He emphasized that all lawyers are honest patriots and have always given an honorable image of Egypt. He added that the lawyers are not happy with the conduct of a minority among them which is trying to harm their long struggle.

Deputy Prime Minister for People's Assembly Affairs Fikri Makram 'Ubaydi also spoke. He pointed out that in the past 2 years the Lawyers Association Council has succeeded in ruining the image of Egypt, the lawyers and the council of the association, which was built over a span of 70 years. What has happened, he said, is an ethical tragedy.

He submitted to the assembly photocopies of two letters sent by the Doyen of the association, Ahmad al-Khawajah. In the first letter, he had asked for President as-Sadat's permission to become a candidate for the position of lawyers' doyen on the basis of the president's principles and the peace process. He had also expressed support for all the president's steps. The second letter was in the form of an application to join the National Democratic Party; that letter was signed by him personally. He did all this to secure the party's support for him, and as soon as he got what he wanted he turned his back on the regime.

The assembly then approved the factfinding committee's report on the incidents in the Lawyers' Association. It decided to refer the report to the government to implement whatever recommendations concern it as well as refer it to the socialist prosecutor general to examine the facts in it. The session was adjourned until 2100 today.

Amends Association Law

NC230850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)--At tonight's session the People's Assembly discussed a bill concerning some provisions of the Lawyers' Association Law. At the outset of the debate, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din noted the recent events which took place in the Lawyers' Association as well as the behavior of its council. He said: The council has in fact turned into a political party.

We are here today not to dissolve the council but to rectify a situation and abolish a party that was formed outside the framework of the multiparty system and in an illegal way. It was a partisan front which persistently used the bar's banner in achieving its political aims.

Dr Muhyi ad-din added: All Egyptian trade unions were separated from the Arab federations except the Egyptian lawyers Association, which was not separated from the Arab Lawyers' Federation. He wondered about the reasons and said that the Lawyers' Association was not separated because those in charge of the Arab federations used the Egyptian Lawyers' Association Council as a means for infiltrating Egypt. He also wondered about the real link between the Egyptian Lawyers' Association Council and the Arab Lawyers' Federation and said that it was a well-known link represented in the trends of the Ba'thist and communist Lawyers Federation and others, which found in the Lawyers' Association's leadership the desired opportunity. It was strange, he said, that the Association's headquarters was the meeting place of all members of the opposition, and, while we rectify the situation today, this is done within the framework of respecting the general principles.

The assembly then approved the bill after amending Article 1 to read that the term of the Lawyers' doyen and members of the present council shall expire on the day this law comes into force. It also amended the paragraph on the jurisdictions of the Associations' provisional council and doyen as follows: The provisional council and Doyen will have all the jurisdictions given to the Association's Council and the Doyen in accordance with Law Number 61 of 1968, and subsequent amendments to the law.

Counselor Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir, minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs, delivered a statement in wnich he affirmed that the assembly has rectified the situation in the Lawyers' Association. He said: We did not dissolve the council but we supported the democracy in the Lawyers' Association. We made this rectification today on the eve of the anniversary of the 23 July revolution. It was a step within the framework of the corrective revolution of 15 May, in order to promote democracy and freedom.

The session then ended. The assembly will resume its sessions on Saturday, 8 August, after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holidays.

TEXT OF 19 JUL SADDAM HUSAYN PRESS CONFERENCE

JN221107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text of the proceedings of the press conference held by President Commander Saddam Husayn on 19 July]

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)--Minister of culture and information: Your Excellency President Commander: Greetings of love and appreciation from all the reporters and representatives of new agencies and television networks throughout the world and from the Iraqi press for attending this press conference in which you will put the world in the picture on current events in the Arab and international arenas as well as the domestic situation. To facilitate the proceedings of the press conference, the reporters' questions have been sorted into groups and each group will be read separately.

Mr President, the first group: The nuclear reactor. The questions focused on the following: What stage has Iraqi-French nuclear cooperation reached, particularly in the wake of the raid on the Tammuz reactor? Have the Iraqi authorities initiated any contacts with the French authoirities in this regard? If such contacts have not been made, are you thinking of approaching another state to rebuild the Iraqi nuclear reactor? What is your opinion on Arab aid, particularly after Saudi Arabia's declaration that it is ready to finance the rebuilding of the reactor? What is your opinion on the call for an Arab summit conference to discuss the dangers of the Zionist aggression? Has the Iraqi government taken immediate measures to protect the Iraqi nuclear installations from any future aggression? Do you expect Israel to launch another aggression against development programs in Iraq? In your interview with the U.S. ABC television network, your excellency spoke of the necessity of the Arab states' possession of nuclear weapons against Israel. Will you tell us about Iraq's policy in this regard? Is it true that the Phantom F-16 plane used by Israel is capable of jamming radar? In your speech at the solidarity conference, you held France and the United States responsible for arming Israel on the nuclear level. Is the responsibility equally shared by Paris and Washington? Is there any Brazilian uranium in Iraq? [Passage listing various news media which asked questions omitted]

The president: The questions posed by brother reporters and news agencies on this subject are many. They all want to know what our policy will be following the raid on the Tammuz nuclear reactor. In answering all these questions, I will assume that there are reporters who only want a general idea or are looking for answers to questions and there are reporters who only want to know technical details; that is, not with the intention of publishing to enlighten world public opinion but merely for the sake of legitimate curiosity in searching for answers to matters they could not get from Iraqi officials.

Proceeding from this premise, I say that the blow against the Tammuz reactor was not the first Israeli blow. However, to confirm previous statements, it was the last. The first blows were directed against the reactor by the Israeli Air Force directly at the beginning of the war through the expertise offered. To be fair to our other enemy, the Persian enemy, I assume that the expertise was offered indirectly. I also assume that the information and photographs of the reactor were offered to Iran indirectly. Several strikes came from Iran but they failed to direct a destructive blow at the reactor. Direct strikes were made by the Israeli Air Force at the beginning of the war but they also failed to achieve their objective.

However, I believe that it taught the Arabs and Iraqis a lesson. Had the raid been prepared for in advance, Israel might have refrained from striking at the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Some might ask: Why was the Iraqi nuclear reactor not buried underground?

In answer to this question, I say as a fact and not only as an answer to reporters -- it is not our habit to search for ways to answer reporters, but we search for ways of legitimate persuasion in our relations with reporters and others, for we believe that the best way of persuasion is to tell the truth -- that we had taken into consideration in advance the possibility of Israel's dealing a blow to the basic links of the Iraqi development and economy. We expected this not only over the nuclear reactor but over other links in Iraq's economy as well. Five years ago we asked ourselves how to guarantee self-protection for the reactor. We asked the technicians to make studies in this regard. However, they impeded such studies under various pretexts. These pretexts were not tendentious but short-sighted. They also had personal reasons. They did not want to leave Baghdad and Baghdad's good climate. This shortsightedness caused them to miss the measures that should have been taken.

What made us not decide to overrule the technicians' shortsighted opinion is that it is known that their reactor is for peaceful purposes and is subject to constant inspection. If we do not bury any new nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes underground, the people building the reactor will not have any worries and will not say: You want to use this reactor for military purposes. I do not think that there should be a question mark regarding our intentions. If we take any of the Iraqi economic and technological links underground, it is because the Israeli threat has become an Israeli application. Israel struck at Iraqi economic and technological installations which, in the testimony of world specialists, including the Western world, are used for peaceful purposes. Let us put Iraq's intentions aside. All the world's scientists and the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that this reactor hit by Israel was designed and installed for peaceful purposes.

Therefore, we are determined to build 1, 2, 5 or 10 reactors as needed and according to our capabilities. I do not think Israel will be able to destroy such reactors in the future. This has alerted all the Arabs. Let everyone, including the Jews in the world, sympathizing with Israel understand and listen to us when we say: We have gained things from the transient results that had never crossed their minds. From now on, anyone who builds a nuclear reactor, even a very small laboratory, will take it underground to avoid the possibility for its future destruction by Israel. This is a big gain. I think it will offset the results Israel directly gained by hitting the Tammuz reactor. We do not have a shortsighted view of matters. We look at the entire future before us just as we see this light before us and all the Arabs.

In the next 20 years, Israel will inevitably enter an historic dilemma. We believe this without any haughtiness, vanity, exaggeration or clamor. Our scientific analysis of the future growth of Arab capabilities and the development of international politics with the emergence of contradictions to the Israeli contradictions themselves makes us confident beyond doubt that the Arabs will receive their rights and Israel will inevitably enter its historic dilemma because it is a society of contradictions, it comprises a group of people from various parts of the globe from various ethnic groups and races. It is difficult to fuse this mixture in the pot of racist Zionism, which is originally based on erroneous scientific and human foundations. Israel is not in the right but in the wrong. Its structure and aggressive trends will one day drag it into a real tight spot. Moreover, the aggression carried out by Israel has affected all the Arabs, not just some of them. If you were to ask all the Arab politicians if the conflict between the Arab nation and the Zionist entity in Palestine, referred to as Israel, is a conflict of civilization and history and tell them that the Arab nation must prepare itself to confront it with patience, vigor, scientific methods and reliance on a people and a public that is aware of and believes in its historical responsibilities, all the Arabs would agree. This is a great gain for the Arabs.

Over here, a nuclear reactor was hit. Another nuclear reactor comes to replace it. That is, this nuclear reactor was not offered by anyone as a gift on the birthday of the Iraqi people. It was purchased from France, and the Iraqi people paid for it, paid for it not only by means of a direct sum of money, but within the framework of the entire general cooperation between France and Iraq.

Therefore, if we do not replace it from France, we will replace it from elsewhere, within the context of cooperative relations between us and France, we will ask them. If they say no, we will not sell your reactor, we will not repair the reactor, we will look for an alternative quarter. The old style of siege is completely over. The development of international politics has made it impossible for any country that is truly independent, is seriouly in possession of its will and has the ability to deal with international politics from an independent position to find the doors of international politics or technological cooperation with the countries of the world closed to it.

Therefore, we have not yet approached France politically on this subject. France's claim that it has not been approached by Iraq is correct. We are in no hurry. Paste is not good. Calm, accuracy, clarity of the objective, clarity of the means and efficiency in gaining the objective are our way of achieving our goals in general, in construction and other fields.

However it is natural that we should ask France a definite question on this subject. If its answer is positive, we will have dealings with it. We may also have dealings with five other countries besides it. If their answer is negative, we will deal with other countries in the world. I do not believe that there is anyone who can impose the least restrictions on Iraq in its technolgical and scientific dealings with the world. We have confidence in this. You will see how doors which are thought to be closed to us at present will be opened to us in the future.

Actually, the French statements have become numerous. Every day I hear a statement, and the French course is no longer clear. To date, the French course has not clearly crystallized, in spite of statements by French officials about their eagerness for the continuation of cooperation.

We must explain talk of international cooperation. When a certain quarter says that it is helping the Iraqi people--although no one is helping us--that is, helps in the sense of helping a people, the fact is that cooperation between us and France is cooperation for the sake of France and for the sake of Iraq. In the first place the French are cooperating with us for the good of France just as the Iraqis are cooperating with France for the good of Iraq and the Arab nation. However, we presume that honest cooperation from independent positions must inevitably lead to compatibility, so we make the legitimate supposition that France has a legitimate interest to achieve through such cooperation. However, things between two friendly countries and between two countries dealing with each other on a purely commercial bases differ. The logic of cooperation between two friendly countries does not entail an equality between movement and counter movement, material and counter material. Rather, it entails that the final result of cooperation in all its aspects will lead to balance between the interests of both parties of the friendship.

On the other hand, an unstrategic, economic and technological relationsip is based on deals. We decide to construct a refinery, we see who makes the best offer, which we take irrespective of other considerations, and we construct the refinery. However, cooperation with France was not conducted within such a fragmented perspective. Economic and cooperation relations with France were formulated on the basis of a concept that has more foresight than the concept of fragmented consideration. This includes the construction of the France nuclear reactor.

France benefited greatly from this project. France benefited from its relations with Iraq. I do not mean the building of the nuclear reactor, but the question of relations of frienship between Iraq and France. It benefited from these bilateral relations. The size of economic cooperation between Iraq and France is well known to French officials and specialists. It also benefited from its entry with a new image into the Arab world and in particular into the Arab east. France's cooperation with Iraq was in one way or another an important key to its entry into the Arab east with a new image and to its building relations of a new scope with several Arab countries. As you know, there exist divisions [taqsimat] to a certain extent in the course of our relations. These are not architectural divisions, but rather a state imposed as a result of complicated circumstances and over a long period of time.

The scope of economic cooperation between a number of Arab countries and the United States is bigger than their cooperation with any European country or with any socialist country. The French say: We are not good merchants. Also their technology is not better than all the technology in the West, and it is not quite enough for the French to set their foot in the Arab homeland through wide-open doors, particularly in their relations with the oil-producing countries which possess the capital. We have economic relations with France, and France has relations with several Arab countries despite the fact that France is known to have been one of the colonialist countries.

The credit for France's entry into the Arab countries goes to Pompidou's policy. The serious beginning between Iraq and France took place during late President Pompidou's era in 1972 when I visited France and proposed a mode of new relations between Iraq and France. This was accepted by French officials as a general framework. These relations were clearly, practically and effectively strengthened during Jacque Chirac's era when he was the French premier. Chirac's policy and his relations with Iraq and the Arab world were adopted by former President Giscard d'Estaing. As for the new president, we wish him success in establishing equitable relations with the Arab nation as a result of which the interests of France and that of the Arab nation will be promoted.

But when France's policy becomes biased in favor of Israel, we will have a new position toward it. Also, when the equitable relations between France and Iraq and between France and the Arab countries are upset, the Arabs will also adopt a new position toward France commensurate with the new policy. We are not ashamed of raising this issue because this entails a basic scientific issue in international relations. However, we do not believe in kissing chins and unscientific and inhumanitarian sentiments in order to serve the nation. We endeavor to serve any nation on earth. We endeavor to serve our Arab nation. Likewise, we endeavor to serve Iraq. At the same time, we hope that the other nations will live in peace, independence and prosperity, but this should not be at the expense of our nation. We always presume that in our relations with any nation in the world, that this nation should enjoy legitimate interests from these relations inasmuch as the Arab nation should enjoy such interests. Our sentiments from the humanitarian point of view are drafted within this framework and this concept. We cannot be lacking in sentiments, but the humanitarian sentiments are being drafted within the framework of this concept in international relations, particularly with the big powers. We have other relations with the small states.

Then, the sentiments take up a new framework--I should say another rather than a new framework. Sentiments take up another framework where these small states are concerned because they are of the same size and have similar circumstances. They have no international policies, nor do they plot against us or contemplate achieving supremacy over a strategic route. They do not sell us and we do not sell them.

However, the big powers can sell and buy in the market of international policy. We have seen this in our dealings. We are not surprised when such an act is practiced by this or that international side because we assume that it will occur. Indeed, we are always careful and our calculations take everything into account while being realistic. We have dealings with the big powers, but such dealings are conducted within the framework of this concept. We deal with this or that big power or this or that superpower only where such dealings would be in the interest of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The West will say that Saddam Husayn is pragmatic. This is what is said in writing sometimes. Are you principled outside the framework of your relations with the world states? Which big power helps people who are sitting idle just because they happen to be poor and miserable and because it wants this people to rise up? The most humanitarian thing such a power could do is to fatten the calf so that it can be milked well. The Arab homeland will no longer be made a fool of. The Arabs now understand and know politics. They have learned. The throes of time since their national regimes were established are still fresh in their memories.

Thus, it should not be thought that the unbalanced statements issued by this or that Western side have no pride or that such statements do not reflect negatively on their policies or interests. They should not imagine that they are dealing with a people who have no knowledge of politics and want to transform the Arab homeland into separate farms. Nor should they imagine that they can establish distinctive relations with Iraq and thus keep it silent so that they can have separate incompatible relations with five other Arab states. We do not accept this.

We coordinate with the Arabs. Even if the Arab cuts off our hands we will continue to cooperate with him for the sake of the Arab people, nation and homeland. Our dealings with the Arab is thus distinguished from our dealings with the foreigner. We will not allow the Arab territory or the Arab people to be insulted whatever our opinion of this or that Arab ruler or whatever that ruler's opinion of us may be. This policy has begun to develop. In the past, such a policy had no proponents. But in recent years the Arabs began to adopt a policy that is close to it. We are certain that if God wills, the Arabs will get together and cooperate in order to establish new traditions in unified Arab action while simultaneously maintaining their regimes and diverse policies where their own private dealings and the nature of their systems are concerned. With regard to unified work, we must develop special Arab traditions at least where international policies or dealings are concerned.

At this point I would like to answer a question on how we view the Arab states' aid to us where the reconstruction of the nuclear reactor is concerned, particularly Saudi Arabia's announcement to this effect. You know that Iraq's problem is not financial, either where this issue or others are concerned. Our assessment of fraternal Arab relations is not based on the foundation of financial benefits. We view the noble gesture by His Majesty Brother King Khalid--namely, his declaration that Saudi Arabia is ready to pay for the reconstruction of the nuclear reactor--from the perspective of its spirit, its fraternal spirit of solidarity with Iraq, a spirit expressed by his declaration. Indeed, we do not view such a gesture from the perspective of the amount and whether it is small or large. Thus, viewing it as such, we greatly appreciate His Majesty King Khalid's noble gesture. We also highly appreciate all the loyal stands, intentions and expressions by the fraternal Arabs toward their nuclear reactor. It has actually become their reactor and not Iraq's since the Zionist entity's strike.

I will not answer the question posed by the U.S. ABC on Iraq's possession of atomic weapons because I answered an American female reporter and my answer was broadcast. I understand that it was broadcast on U.S. television. If the answer was not broadcast, then the essence of it was. The entire interview was broadcast by Baghdad television. Anyone who is looking for an answer to this question can go back to the interview and find the answer there.

As for the subject of the Phantom F-16 planes and whether they are able to jam radar or anything else, I will not speak on the technical aspects, since we are in a state of actual war with Iran. I will not speak about our arms or about any positive or negative aspect of these arms. I will not speak about the weak and strong points of our arms and military preparations. We are entitled to this. However, I say: There is no target in the world, including targets inside Israel, which are immune to blows if there are people who want and plan to strike at them. You know that Israel itself admitted that the Israeli pilots were trained for this and built a model of the reactor. They must have benefited from satellites and perhaps some French experts on the site who were in their pay. After building a model and having several planes train at attacking it, one plane might be able to hit the target. This was no problem.

Regarding the question of the existence of Brazilian uranium in Iraq, we have already answered the Brazilians and the Americans and the American female reporter. Nevertheless, I say this is an Israeli lie. Do you realize the extent to which the Zionist entity had to lie in the words of the highest-ranking officials? Previously, it was very careful in its statements, at least in production.

Even the Israeli radio was careful to appear as if it were telling nothing but the truth. Only with Iraq did we force it to lie in the sight and hearing of the entire world. Begin began to lie so openly that his press began to talk about his lies. He lied about the timing of the raid on the nuclear reactor. He said that he chose Sunday and not any other day for his raid for humanitarian reasons. He knows that the Iraqis work on Sundays and their holiday is on Fridays. He also told another scientific lie. He said that they hit the Iraqi nuclear reactor before it was operational so that the radiation would not harm the Iraqi people. He said this in order to appear extremely humane.

All who have dealt with the Zionist entity at the expense of the Arabs are criminals. However, he tops the list of criminals and is known internationally for his crimes. All specialists know that even if the reactor had been operational, hitting it would not have resulted in radiation that would threaten the people of Baghdad. Moreover, radiation spreads only a few meters from the site. He also told another lie when he said that Saddam Husayn himself had said that this reactor was designed against Israel. My words are always recorded, published and known. Their own press and their own opposition asked them: Where did Saddam Husayn state this?

Therefore, you see how many times Begin was forced to lie. We care about this. If the world discovers that the politicians in the Zionist entity are liars, this will be the beginning of their eating away and not that of the Arab nation. I mean that we have not asked Brazil for such cooperation and there is no such cooperation in the field of uranium. Of course, you mean enriched uranium.

Minister of culture and information: Thank you, Mr President.

The second group: The Iraqi-Iranian war. Is there a new Islamic initiative to solve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and why has the previous mediation failed? Do you expect a halt to the war if Bani-Sadr's bloc returns to power? Is it possible that you would grant Bani-Sadr political asylum in Iraq? How does the war affect your Arab and international relations. What is the war's effect on your national economy? How much has your economy been damaged as a result of the war? What is the number of human losses? What is the role of the Kurds in the field of development and war? Now that the war has become a year old, how do you assess it and the conditions of the Iraqi people and their preparedness to continue the war? What is your opinion of the Gulf states' stand on the war? There are rumors that Iran has regained some military operations. Is that true and where do your forces stand now? What are your conditions for solving the conflict with Iran and for establishing new relations with it? Do you always oppose the idea of exporting ideologies or is it a special case with Iran? How do you explain your dictums that you are against the rulers in Iran and not against the people at a time when you say that there is a historic hostility between Iran and the Arabs? Do you attach special importance to Al-Qadhdhafi's proposal to mediate between Iraq and Iran? How does Iraq tackle the damages inflicted on the foreign companies as a result of the war? In light of the Iranian intransigence, what is the way to solve the war? Does Iraq consider itself a defender of the small Gulf states against Iran's schemes. [Passage listing various news media which asked above questions omitted]

The president: We have explained how the war started on many occasions. I do not want to talk much about the roots of the historical problems between Iraq and Iran and between Iran and the Arab nation because you might miss the direct idea and causes for the outbreak of the war. The war broke out because Iran attacked and bombarded the following Iraqi towns on 4 September 1980: Khaniqin, Mandali, Zarbatiyah and the Khana area, which is an oil area near the borders. Therefore, Iran started the war by hitting civilian targets contrary to what it said about meaning to strike at military targets. Iran has forgotten that it was the one which started the war by striking at civilian targets. Recently, Iran managed to position one or two guns in the Abadan area. It seems that following the 6-month absence of the 175-mm gun from the battlefield due to a lack of ammunition, it is again in Abadan to hit Basra.

As you know, he who managed to supply Iran with the Phantom spare parts on the black market is also capable of supplying it with the rocket shields for the 175-mm guns to hit Basra. They are shelling Basra with 10 or 8 or 5 rockets from one day to the next and sometimes every day. Sometimes they hit Basra more than once, as they did yesterday. Basra is a town that brought back to mind their action when they shelled the peaceful towns at the beginning of the war. This compelled us to enter their territory in order to defend and protect our towns and at the same time make them agree to end the war with Iraq and to recognize Iraq's and the Arab nation's rights clearly and frankly.

The Iranians say that they have regained land and so forth. You will go to the front and see where the Iraqi Army is positioned. Therefore, I do not want to tire you with extensive words. However, specifically there are towns which we declared at the beginning of the war that the Iraqi Army entered. There are also towns which, from the military point of view, are considered as have fallen militarily. These are the towns which the Iraqi Army entered; from the southern sector: Al-Muhammarah [Korramshahr], Basatin, Hoveyzeh. The Iraqi Army also entered Al-Khafajiyah [Susangerd], but it did not remain there. I mean it left the town, but not because of the war. At the beginning of the war, the Iraqi Army used the policy of continuous advance [siyasat at-takhatti]. In other words, the army enters an area but does not keep it; it proceeds to chase the enemy. Al-Khafajiyah is one of the towns that was entered and then evacuated by the Iraqi Army. We remained positioned at its approaches as part of our plan not to spread and exhaust our units by occupying towns.

We remained there and improved our military position after the epic of Al-Khafajiyah, which raged between the two rivers of Karkheh and Karkheh (Al-'Amyah), during which the Iraqi Army scored a victory over the Persian army. The best military units from the two sides fought in that battle. It took the Iranian Army 3 months to prepare for that battle. It was the first big battle in which the armored force was involed in an extensive and effective manner. The second battle in which an armored force was involved took place a week after the outbreak of the war. That battle didn't start on a wide scale, but then the Iraqi Army chased the Iranian Army until it reached its objectives. Later, the Iranian Army tried to encroach on the Iraqi Army. The biggest and most fiery battle of Al-Khafajiyah, which we call the Al-Khafajiyah epic because the Iraqi Army crushed the best Iranian armored force.

The second battle in which the armor force was involved on a wide scale was the battle that raged on the approaches of Dezful. The Iranian armored force was defeated and the Iranian enemy lost 83 tanks, which ranged from serviceable to almost destroyed. All of those tanks were evacuated. The Iraqi Army, which is positioned on the approaches of Ahvaz, hit those tanks when the Iranian fighters entered them. Al-Khafajiyah and Dezful are within range of our artillery and mortars.

In the Ahvaz sector, the Iraqi Army withdrew about 4 to 5 kms. Previously, it was at the edge of the trees in southern Ahvaz and the forward units of the army were about 1.5 kms away. I told the field commander: Withdraw your units to avoid the antiarmor rockets and put your armor outside their range. He answered: By God, sir, it is very hard to withdraw from all that we have gained in battle without a fight. He stayed there until the floods forced him to withdraw. About 2 months ago, I saw him and jokingly said: You did not withdraw on your own so the floods forced you to. He withdrew about 4 to 5 kms. This is all the Iranians were able to accomplish in all their measures making use of topographical conditions and the possibility of water flooding out the Iraqi units.

Western military analysts had thought that winter would be harsh on the Iraqi Army in the Arabistan region, but it did not flood the Iraqi Army out. You can see Iraq's greatness in two basic points, not just in the immediate results of the war: You see Iraq's greatness in defeating nature and in the paved roads which stretch across the land on which the Iraqi Army is deployed inside Iran. You also see this greatness in the providing of administrative requisites for this large army. You will see that wherever you go--tell your escorts to take you wherever you want--the administrative requisites are available in full, including ice and fruits, in the most remote military positions on the front.

I have focused on these two points because the big powers think that only they can furnish these things in a sound manner in a war on a front which is more than 1,000 kms long and 40-100 kms deep.

After Abadan was surrounded from the east by taking the Abandan-Shaykh Budayr road and the Abadan-Ahvaz road, we pushed some army bases forward ahead of the Shaykh Budayr-Abadan road. These two bases endured the winter until the tanks began to sink to their turrets in the mud. The Iraqis struggled against nature while fighting the Iranian Army and stood fast all winter in order that it could not be said that nature defeated them. About 3 weeks or a month before that, we told these two bases to withdraw to the Abadan-Shaykh Budayr-Bushehr road. I think the distance is 2-3 km. I do not know exactly, but it is not more than 3 kms. This is what happened when the Iranians said that they had liberated or broken the siege over Abadan. They were silent afterward and thought that the Iraqi Army could withdraw. They were tempted by this state of affairs to engage the units there in battle. They sustained heavy losses and withdrew to their positions.

In all the sectors the Iranians occupied two major positions through fighting in 10 months. We can regain them any time we want if we so desire: The rocky tip in the region of (Hajiyah) in the Gilan-e Gharab sector and the (Kojar) Plateau in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector, which is only a plateau. In order to prove to them that we did not want (Kojar), we pushed around (Kojar) to Sar-e Pol-e Zahab in a battle in which we destroyed all the forces, rather, the brunt of the forces which were in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab basin, and reached our designated targets and returned to where the force was supposed to be.

Mehran, Khosrowvi and Qasr-e Shirin are in our hands. All of these are cities. We declared at the beginning of the war that they are in our hands. Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab are under the mercy of our artillery. We can advance toward these cities and crush the forces in them whenever we want to do so. Therefore, this is the information we have made public since the beginning of the war, and you will see this on earth as it is. Moreover, there are some positions which the army is supposed to give up and move backward in order to reorganize its positions. However, the field commanders do not psychologically bear the idea of retreating from the land which they had reached. In my opinion, there are many areas where work is supposed to be 3, 4 or 5 kms backward. Some of these areas guarantee better defensive positions for the Iraqi Army and make our losses less. As for the Iraqi people, you have seen them. You will see the Iraqi Army in the field and you will be able to realize whether its morale has dropped. Increased or remained unchanged in comparison with the first week of the war. However, the final judgement on its morale remains the fact that it has been fighting for 10 months and is still in the positions we enumerated. Consequently, it must be fighting with high spirits. Otherwise, how can it preserve its positions? The army is the son of this people and this people is the offspring of the new history as well as the ancient history. This people has a new brith, a new spirit and a new mentality in construction and war. Most important of all is the clarity of the issue in its view that it is right and the adversary is wrong. The adversary is an aggressor and tyrannical and aims at harming Iraq and the Arab nation without any justification. This is the basic element which has made the Iraqis fight and to continue fighting with this spirit.

The Islamic mediation committee was formed at the At-Ta'if Conference. It is still continuing its efforts. It goes and comes to Iraq and Iran, exerting efforts to reach a peaceful solution. However, the final element which decides a peaceful solution is the will of both Iraq and Iran. Committees are helpless and can only offer their good offices with sound intentions. What disrupts a peaceful solution is an internal factor and an international factor. There are no international intricacies or internal factors in Iraq to disrupt a peaceful solution. The internal factors and international intricacies exist in Iran. Practically, Iran is the one which has always rejected peaceful initiatives, the last of which was our offer for a cease-fire during Ramadan, which is a holy month for the Muslims. This was dictated on us by reasons of the Islamic religious values as well as by our desire to give them a psychological change to respond to peaceful solutions, perhaps after a month of cease-fire. However, all this was rejected due to their own considerations based on a backward viewpoint, unawareness and lack of care and responsibility toward their people, in addition to reasons pertaining to the international intricacies existing among their ranks.

We no longer introduce new matters into the international intricacies; their statements suffice. They say that the head of their state, Bani-Sadr, was elected by 12 million Iranians, that is, by 76 percent. Later on they said that he is an agent of American intelligence. We have documents on this subject. Thus, they have international intricacies. I would like to say that they say in their newspapers that there are among us people who are agents of the Soviets, Americans or the British.

We are saying and we have said that there are no agents among us. There is foreign intervention and backwardness on their side. It is impossible not to know that Khomeyni is backward. So, they are the ones hindering the peaceful settlements because we still have the desire for peace, not because we fear the future. You know this very well and we need not talk about it any longer. We will be quite happy to establish peace when the right circumstances are available because we have no greedy intentions and because we shoulder our complete responsibilities toward our people.

As for Mr Bani-Sadr or any other person in the Iranian opposition, if they would like to come to Iraq, they are most welcome. We will receive them without any conditions and we will not ask them to change their own opinions regarding the issues of peace and war. If they come to Iraq, we will furnish them with the necessary requirements for a respected and dignified life. Even Raja'i, if he decides to come to Iraq in the future, he is welcome. As for Khomeyni, I will say that there is a special point of view. You know that we offered him bread, salt and water and that he quenched his thirst with the waters of the Euphrates and ate our bread. He enjoyed all the blessings of Iraq. In return, he began to kill the Iraqis. Therefore, it is said that there is a special point of view regarding Khomeyni, but the others are welcome to come.

You all know that we do not build our policy on resentment and that we harbor no hatred. Yet we have our own values as Iraqis and as an Arab couhtry. We are proud of these values and we will continue to protect and preserve them.

The brothers have asked what we think of the stands of the Arab countries and what we think of the stands of the Arab Gulf countries. I was asked before about this subject and my answer was guided by the auspicious respected saying: He who sees any detestable thing, let him rectify it with his hands. If he fails then with his tongue and if he fails then with his heart, and this is the least degree of faith. The Arabs, including Iraq, are distributed among these three categories. However, some of the Arabs remain outside these three categories. I spoke about this in the speech we delivered in July. Our stand was clear on this issue.

What is the correct stand? It is the one which we have adopted. It is the one which we adopt toward the Arabs--and we are not bragging here, because we have proven it. Iraq proved this before we assumed power and Iraq has proved this since we assumed power. Every time the Arabs fought in defense of their land and sovereignty, we were there at their side. We have never adopted a neutral stand. On the contrary, our army used to fight for them as if it was fighting for Baghdad. This is the correct stand. Any stand less than this comes under one of the three categories I have mentioned.

However, we are not accustomed to embarrassing our brothers. We do not seek to embarrass anyone, but to establish a stand based on conviction and capabilities. We do not want any brother to bear more than he can. Sometimes, however, we criticize because the ability to bear that is shown is less than it should be. We sometimes see that some of the brothers could have borne more without suffering any harm. This is our judgement. Nevertheless, if any Gulf state is subjected to an aggression, then the Iraqi Army will confront this aggression, even before the armed forces of that state.

If Kuwait is subjected to an aggression, you will see the Iraqi Army fighting in defense of Kuwait with no less enthusiasm than that shown by the Kuwaitis. The same applies to the UAE. Aren't we demanding that Iran withdraw from the Arab islands and turn them over to Shaykh Zayid [UAE president]? We are fighting on behalf of the UAE at a time when the UAE Armed Forces are inside their garrisons.

This is enough proof that our words are not for informational purposes but that we mean what we say.

When Damascus was about to be occupied by the Zionist enemy in 1973, the Iraqi tanks rushed to the battlefront and took part in the fighting. Our tanks moved to the battlefront without nearly enough reconnaisance. The Iraqi planes were the first to strike at the Israeli rocket positions and radar sites in Sinai in 1973. This is how we expect the stand to be, exactly as we always stand on the side of the Arabs. We do not get angry if their stand is less than this, yet we continue to ask them for more. The only stand that we get angry about is that which is at the side of the enemy. When we say that we are fighting the rulers in Iran, then we are not being realistic.

We are not only fighting the Iranian rulers. We are fighting the Iranian rulers and people who are fighting us, and not only Khomeyni and Raja'i. There is an Iranian Army fighting us. However, we must be wise where historical responsibility is concerned. We say that the Iranian rulers are responsible for the aggression and war because of their stand. We hear what Bani-Sadr said in March 1980. He said that if the Iranian Army should proceed toward Baghdad, there would be no power that can prevent it from occupying Baghdad. The Iranians applauded him. Such applause echoes the historical struggle we are talking about. Otherwise, why would they applaud him? It is as if they were telling him: Why brother, what do you want from Baghdad? Why is your army marching toward Baghdad? Why should we occupy Baghdad if it were not for you? This applause echoed the historical struggle which is more than 4,000 years old. This historical struggle has not stopped.

I once asked the historians: Can you ever remember the passage of 15 years during which no Persian intrigue was directed against the Arab nation or Iraq, just 15 continuous years? They replied: History cannot recall the passage of such a number of years without Persian intrigues being directed against the Arab nation and Iraq.

Yet despite this, we do not assess our policy on the basis of history. Rather, we assess our policy on the basis of our desire to establish relations with Iran on the bases of peace and mutual respect--respect for options, rights; refraining from planning aggression and resorting to the military method in order to attain illegitimate rights.

These are the principles we believe in. However, when we are faced with aggression, it is our right to go back to history in order to find an explanation for and the causes of aggression and in order not to misjudge modern Iran. Otherwise, how can we explain the existence of a new regime which says: I am here to make the Iranians happy; I am here to achieve for the Iranians the happiness and stability they missed during the shah's era? How can we explain the fact that this is the first state which harbored hostility toward us, interfered in our affairs, used bombs against officials and students, struck at border posts and shelled the peaceful cities? How can we explain all this hostility if we do not go back to history? At least the important explanations can be found by going back to history. You are a people who came to power saying that the Iranian people were hungry. Well, satisfy their hunger. Give them a bite to eat. Clothe the clotheless and satisfy the hunger of the hungry. Provide educational opportunities for those who do not have them.

However, what they did was to make the hungry even hungrier. They increased the number of clotheless and the number of those who have no educational opportunities. They closed down schools, institutes and colleges. These are the new Iranian gains.

In reply to the question of whether Iraq considers itself the protector of the small Gulf states from Iranian ambitions, I say yes and no. Yes in the sense that we are like a brother who, when asked for a service, offers it; and no because we do not want our pan-Arab stand to be interpreted as a stand of custodianship. We hope that our brothers in the Gulf are capable of self-defense. However, we are not only at the service of the Gulf states. We are at the service of every Arab who is insulted in his land, whose dignity is offended or whose sovereignty and security are jeopardised. We are at the service of any Arab who asks for our service. We are ready to offer our services to him without expecting payment in return or gratitude for our services.

We neither distinguish between or classify the rulers both inside or outside the Gulf based on our opinion of them. We do not say that because we esteem this ruler, we shall support him against the ruler for whom we have no esteem. No, we do not say this where the issue is firmly imprinted in our minds. We always support the Arabs against their enemies.

As regards the issue of peace, peace between Iraq and Iran is inevitable. I mean that the war must end, whether in one years', two years' or three years' time. The day must come when this war ends. We hope that the war will not end under circumstances in which Iran would have paid a high price, since this would give it a historical complex where we are concerned. When I talk about a high price, I am referring to its unity. It is not us who are doing this. There are several international quarters which are doing this, and the Iranians know them. I don't know whether they know these quarters or not. [sentence as received] I honestly don't know.

It seems that there is little knowledge in Iran. There are many international quarters seeking to undermine Iran's unity, particularly if their position continues to be what it is. They do not even know which side they follow. At any rate, the day must come when the war will end. We hope that it will end one day earlier rather than one day later. However, in all clarity and without giving any opportunity for the formulation of independent decisions or changes, relations should be based on such foundations as each country's respect for the other and refraining from planning for wars or military interference or resorting to military methods to attain illegitimate rights for any side, whether the Arab or Iranian side.

Minister of culture and information: Your Excellency the President, the third group: Iraq's Arab Relations:

Is Iraq satisfied with the Arab countries' position toward the aggression, and what is Iraq's stand on the question of unifying the Arabs? What is your opinion on the opening of the Arab fronts for the Palestinian resistance? It is being said that Iraq made reservations about the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council. What is your opinion on this, and does Iraq intend to join this later? How do you assess the Lebanese crisis, and do you think there will be a solution for this crisis soon? What is Iraq's role in boosting Arab economic integration? What is the extent of your relations with Libya and Syria? Is it possible that an Arab action might be made to confront the United States and its schemes in the area? What do you think of the participation of Australia and New Zealand in the multinational force in Sinai? It was observed that some Arab countries did not attend the solidarity conference. Did you invite all the Arab countries? Following Egypt's departure from the Arab ranks, do you think it is necessary to hold a meeting among Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the PLO to confront Israel? How far have the efforts of the mediation committee gone to purify the Arab atmosphere? What are you demanding from the Arab oil countries, particularly during the war? What is Iraq's attitude toward the question of the Sahara in Morocco? [question as received] Is it true that Iraq is asking to hire the Kuwaiti Island of Bubiyan? [passage listing various news media which asked the above questions omitted]

The president: It is a conflict between the Arabs and the Zionist entity, which is attacking the Arabs on a daily basis. Last month, the Zionist entity hit the reactor. The

The Zionist entity has added Lebanon to its aggressive record. Our views with regard to the conflict are well known. We say that this conflict is a historical and cultural one. It will go on for a long period of time. However, we have confidence that in the end the Arabs will be in a better position and that the Zionist entity will be in a historical predicament because its a racist, expansionist and aggressive entity.

A short while ago, we made ourselves clear with regard to the Arab land and the Arab man. We will support every Arab land or man exposed to humiliation. We view any occupied Arab land as we view any occupied Iraqi land. It is natural that we side with all the Arab brothers in defense of our occupied Arab land, be they Syrian or Palestinian or any other Arab country.

Actually, it is wrong to talk about Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian-Palestinian solidarity. I am speaking as an Arab and my words are addressed to the Arabs in particular, and foreigners are listening to my words and this analysis. We should not imagine that relations based on axes can liberate Palestine. Arab relations should be formulated in a pan-Arab framework for specific pan-Arab objectives and not within a framework of protecting the regimes or solidarity for regional interests. We do not believe that the pan-Arab stand is the sum total of regional interests. However, we believe that the pan-Arab stand is the right umbrella for the regional interests of the Arab countries without, however, a closed regional outlook. We believe that a grouping based on regional interests or internal circumstances creates a state that cannot effectively face a common danger and cannot soundly achieve the interests of the countries of which it is comprised.

Therefore, we call for sound Arab relations based on specific considerations. First, we should begin with the assumption that the Arab homeland is not one state but several states. If regional characteristics are allowed to act unchecked and in a narrowminded manner, the Arab nation will be greatly harmed. However, they are existing countries, states and regimes. Some are republican, others are kingdoms, other are shaykhdoms and still others are emirates. This is a reality. Second, we should assume--and this is an existing reality as well--that there are different opinions regarding the sound course to be followed in confronting the Arab nation's enemies.

Therefore, what is the solution? The solution lies in meeting above the current state of complete breakdown [fang at-tarradi] on the better road, allowing the better objective to be attainable by all. It is not permissible to meet in a state of complete breakdown, and we cannot continue to hang in the air regarding aspirations. Any meeting above the state of complete breakdown is a step we seek if it is collective and if it leaves the running track to the better road that is open to people and to those who can run faster.

We believe that if each of the Arab regimes continues to believe that it is better and more correct than the others, and if it asks the others to tailor their suits in accordance with its suit, this puts us in a state of complete breakdown. What is the state of complete breakdown in the relationship between the Arabs and the Zionist entity? It is the state for which we aspire? It is the state of liberating the Arab land, following the failure of the policy of arms against the Zionist entity. What is the form of this better state? It is for all the Arabs to follow this trend with their armies and potentials. What is the lesser stand we accept without it blocking the road before us? It is the state of collective Arab meeting above the state complete breakdown, with potentials less than the state we aspire for, with an economic stand less than the state we aspire for and with a military stand less than the state we aspire for, but leaving the road to the solution we aspire for open for debate and dialogue in order to rectify stands in a brotherly manner and not through renunciation, conflict and accusations. Along these lines, we see that three Arab states are qualified to mobilize their military resources and rise above the state of complete breakdown on behalf of the Arab nation, backed by the Arab nation's depth and each according to its capabilities.

This can take place at any time a meeting among Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance takes place toward this trend. The meeting will be sound and not one based on axes created for the exchange of interests, on stands and on regional influences based on regional factors. These circumstances can be achieved at any time, and we are all dutybound to achieve them. Iraqis are part of any small or big group toward this trend. Iraq refuses to become part of any axis that will replace this meeting, the meeting of the nation for the achievement of its noble basic objectives. Are the Arabs capable of carrying out an Arab action to confront the United States and its schemes in the region?

By God, when they want, the Arabs are capable of adopting an effective stand that can influence any enemy or any enemy scheme that may confront them, whether this comes from the United States or from parties other than the United States. The situation of the Arabs is the only one that is different from all other states, a situation which enables them to become better 24 hours after they decide to become better. In order to improve its situation, Western Europe needs 1 or 2 years because it has to decide growth rates in accordance with a certain percentage. They say that the Netherlands must progress by 7.2 percent, that the United Kingdom must deal with unemployment, strikes and labor and that France must deal with its problems. In other words, they need time before they can become better.

When the Arabs decide to become better in a short time, they can become better because the question is not the lack of intrinsic potentials but of misusing their intrinsic potentials and channelling their potentials within the sound framework and in accordance with a comprehensive concept of life and their role in it. When this takes place, they can become better. I would like to give two examples to prevent you from thinking that what I am saying is merely talk. These examples are the Baghdad summit conference and the meeting in At-Ta'if between us and Saudi Arabia. After we decided to become better, we became better the next day. We became better on the psychological level, on the informational level. We became better in international policy. We became better in Arab policy. We also became better with respect to the financial potentials for the steadfastness of the people along the line of confrontation with the Zionist entity. This is our situation. The second example is when Saudi Arabia and Iraq decided that their decision was to be taken seriously and not just for information purposes. All countries which had transferred their embassies to Jerusalem in the past transferred their embassies from Jerusalem even before the expiration of the 1-month deadline Saudi Arabia and Iraq had given to those countries which had embassies in Jersualem. They were told that if during 1 month they had not transferred their embassies, they would be politically boycotted by us. They realized that this decision was serious, despite the fact that it came from only two Arab countries. We became better during 1 month. They transferred their embassies before the expiration of the 1-month deadline because their stand was erroneous. Thus, we can become better if we decide to.

Brother Arabs who are present here, all our friends, the friends of the Arabs who are here in this place: The Arabs are 22 countries, 22 regimes and 22 parties. We have to be patient to move into a better position. We need fraternal opinions. I mean not an arrogant opinion or a shaky one. In other words, we do not need a subservient, scared and shaky opinion, nor do we need an arrogant dictatorial opinion which contends that it alone holds the truth and that the rest of the opinions should be discarded. Actually, we did not entertain such ideas. However, such ideas began to develop in Iraqi policy after 1974. We saw and asked ourselves if we wanted to remain Iraqis only. I do not mean here by words only, but by politics, whose vocabulary is known. Do we want to represent a distinguished condition among the Arab regimes or do we want to participate in the pan-Arab responsibility or participate with all our Arab brothers to make our nation better?

I do not mean to have a better Iraq. We answered ourselves: We want to be a part of the pan-Arab responsibility and to take into consideration the ideas and principles to which we referred. But, at the same time, we must take into consideration the fact that the Arabs are 22 countries, 22 parts, 22 policies and 22 regimes.

Therefore, we must be patient and must act on bases of brotherhood, but doing so cautiously. I mean that the position should not be based on how to exploit, on the information and political level, a weak circle in this regime in order to harm it. This of course does not apply to that regime which has been given a thousand chances. Other than that, we must be patient and our criticism should be objective so that the ruler will be better. The basic aim should not be based on overthrowing the ruler. This should be the case when the ruler has become a hopeless case, a case in which he will never develop to the minimum, although we believe that this ruler can attain a condition better than the minimum.

That is why I was clear in my speech in handling the issues. We, however, avoided vituperations, abuse and convulsive words. Patience is necessary to attain a better condition and not keep the condition as it is. This is of course from the collective point of view. At the same time, we must give a chance to everyone who can assume a further and better distance in the arena without this being at the expense of others. This depends on judgment and behavior. Therefore, when we say there are wrong Arabs who adopt stands which are not at the level of capabilities, it is then a question of relieving one's conscience. It is only words for the press. We raise a topic and we know how to talk about it. If we elevate the nation to a better condition, all of us will then be in a better condition. We, therefore, must adopt the method of communications and contacts. We must exhaust ourselves once, twice, thrice and so forth until we move this country or that ruler from their position to a better one. We must be better than him in order to move him toward a better condition. If we all move together, we will all have a better condition, rather than only one of us having a better condition, leaving the other 21 at the beginning of the road. We believe that one Arab country cannot alone liberate Palestine, irrespective of the capabilities. Therefore, the liberation of Palestine should be based on the Arab nation's spirit, history and general principles. Only then can three or four Arab countries, possibly two, be the spearhead in liberating Palestine, of course doing so with this spirit and not that based on axes.

Unity to us is not an axis. We believe in unity and desire it, but we do not consider any meeting preceding it as an alternative for it. Meanwhile, we do not hamper such a meeting pending unity as we conceive or imagine it or as others conceive or imagine it. We desire, support and wish success to any unitary action, whether between the Gulf states, the Arab Maghreb states or between Egypt and Sudan, at any time in the future provided that such an action stems from the spirit of pan-Arab action and has any degree of relationship with unity and fraternal coordination. However, we do not support relations based on axes because such relations harm the Arab nation and disrupt the movement of collective action. We should always rise above the state of complete breakdown and above negative stands. We might not be collective in our direction or completely logical in our conduct, as is wished by every one of us.

We support the solution of the issue of the Sahara in a manner that satisfies the parties directly concerned so that Arab blood will not be shed by the Arabs themselves and so that the Arabs will be kept away from the state of fragmentation in their bilateral relations and away from disputes and fratricide. We hope for and support any solution reached by the concerned parties on this issue. The Arab states directly concerned may have a method better able than ours to define the sound framework of this subject. Iraq has always taken the initiative in proposing collective plans for Arab action within the framework of this subject. Iraq has always taken the initiative in proposing collective plans for Arab action within the framework of the Arab economy and development. The last of these was the development project submitted to the Amman conference. I hope that this will not be considered as political propaganda for Iraq. It is a fact.

The minister of culture and information: Mr President, the fourth group: Iraq's international relations.

When will Iraq resume its diplomatic relations with the United States? How do you view the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and its impact on security in the Indian Subcontinent? How do you evaluate Iraq's relations with India? What is your opinion about the U.S. role in the Arab Gulf region and the Indian Ocean? How do you view the future of the Third World, especially since Iraq is one of its countries? How do you assess Iraq's relations with France, particularly after Francois Mitterrand's assumption of the presidency and after Israel's bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor? Has France's stand toward cooperation with Iraq changed? What about Iraq's relations with Japan? What is the extent of Iraqi-Soviet relations now and during the war? Why has a Soviet delegation not attended the solidarity conference? Do you intend to call for an Arab economic boycott of the United States, particularly after the Zionist aggression against the nuclear reactor? How do you view your role in the Nonaligned Movement prior to the convocation of the movement's seventh conference, particularly since the Iraqi-Iranian war is still continuing? How do you view the development of relations between China and the United States and the impact of this development on world security? Would President Saddam Husayn kindly address a word to the Venezuelan people? [Passage listing various news media which asked questions omitted]

Our relations with the United States are severed. The Americans have been contacting us for a long time, expressing their desire to resume diplomatic relations with Iraq. We have been explaining to them our point of view regarding the reasons behind the severance of relations, as well as our point of view regarding U.S. policy toward the Arab nation and Iraq, a policy which prevents the resumption of relations. In the past year, their representative in Baghdad submitted some suggestions and we agreed on some of them. Here are the suggestions on which we agreed:

To deal with their representative on the political as well as technical level; that is, when we summon the foreign ambassadors to brief them on a certain stand, we also summon their representative so that he may be briefed on the Iraqi Government's stand. If we protest against a certain stand or make a remark on a certain U.S. stand, we summon their representative, hand him a memorandum and brief him on our view regarding the U.S. policy toward the Arab nation and Iraq. We have agreed on this.

The other point which we have agreed on is: The Americans suggested that despite the severed relations, they can still make a suggestion to us or ask us--and this is subject to our approval and disapproval--if a person or persons with political capacity may visit us in Baghdad to hold a discussion, or if Iraqi and U.S. politicians may meet on the sidelines of international conferences; this is subject to the approval of the two sides. In other words, if Iraq sees that it is in its interest to receive a U.S. official, it will suggest this despite the severed relations; or, if the Americans want to visit Iraq, they will suggest this and it is up to Iraq to accept or refuse this suggestion. The question is not about this point, but I feel it's necessary to clarify everything in our policy because we do not like dark corners. They have asked us to install a communications system as in the other embassies, and we have agreed on this. All this comes within the framework of balanced relations and reciprocal treatment.

As for relations in the other spheres, they are the same. When we feel that resumption of our diplomatic relations with the United States is in the interest of Iraq and the Arab nation, we will do so within the correct and traditional framework and without any mediators, since we have done all this without any mediators and under spotlights. We do not like mediators.

Why should we use mediators? Actually, the one who is careful about the interests of his country will listen to the other side. Even regarding the relations with Iran, we prefer to have a direct relationship despite the continued war. We have actually suggested this to them. We told them: Let the war continue but, at the same time, let us sit together and negotiate and discuss things. We fight and negotiate at the same time in order to avoid mediation. In reality, we do not know much about these mediations and mediators and whether all of them or half of them want to bring about peace. They all utter well-phrased and sound words that would lead us and the Iranians toward peace. Are their words and intentions sincere or not? We do not know. However, we assume that all these mediation missions, with all their members and formations, are adopting a peaceful course, and we deal with them according to this fact.

We would prefer to sit down and negotiate with the Iranians while the war is raging, doing so until we reach an agreement. When we reach an agreement, the war will stop.

As for the Soviet stand on Afghanistan, we frankly declared our stand in a speech to the people. We believe, as a general rule that applies to all superpowers, that the superpowers should leave the Third World states alone to practice their freedom far from any interference in their internal affairs. My thanks to any of the superpowers that may extend any help to a Third World state, particularly a poor one, to enable it to live in pride and independence. Any interference by the Soviet Union, the United States, France, China or any other state in the affairs of the Third World states is something that we oppose. This is an inalienable course of our policy, regardless of our friendship with this or that state and regardless of our displeasure with this or that state. This is an unchangeable course.

Regarding the role of the United States in the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean region, we say that it is a colonialist one. Is it a liberation role? The search for new bases and new facilities in this region is a very bad and dangerous operation. The talk about the Rapid Deployment Force and other similar features which are beginning to color international policy is humiliating to the world's peoples. This brings to mind the old colonialist picture.

What is colonialism? By God, it is when peoples cannot manage their affairs because they are backward and others come to manage these affairs in a backward manner. Peoples cannot protect themselves, that is why they come to protect them. By God, if we rid ourselves of them, the peoples will have no more problems. The problems of the peoples of the world, including the problem of backwardness, come from the big powers. Relations between Iraq and India are good. How do we view the future of the Third World?

First, what is the present state of the Third World? It has a slow growth rate, which sometimes does not even exist. It is socially and culturally backward. There are few technical and scientific cadres and no importance is attached to education and science. In sum, these are the symptoms of the Third World's suffering. Therefore, there is a scientific and technical gap between Third World countries and industrialized countries. This gap is neocolonialism. Getting rid of colonialism will be achieved by bridging this gap. Without the bridging of the gap between Third World and industrialized countries--not the advanced industrial countries but any other industrial country which is on a lesser level than the advanced industrial countries--Third World countries will remain at the mercy of the big industrial countries and will remain subservient to them in one way or another. They believe that they possess the will for independence and they remain backward inasmuch as the big industrial countries want them to be. The comparison between liberation and backwardness is not a relative comparison of the previous state, but should be made on the basis of this analysis, on the basis of bridging the gap between the technical and scientific backwardness of Third World countries and industrial countries. Many industrial countries may become interested in some development programs in Third World countries.

They may become interested in some educational aspects because they do not wish for Third World countries to be that backward, thus making them unable to provide advanced industrial countries with sound services. They do so because they need these countries in their relations of subservience and exploitation. They need them to have a certain standard in providing services that will be commensurate with the scientific and technical progress advanced industrial countries are seeking. Therefore, the progress which takes place in Third World countries, if these countries continue to remain subservient, will be a degree of progress required by the advanced industrial countries that will enable Third World countries to provide the required services.

What is the radical solution? The solution is for the big powers to look at Third World countries in a humanitarian way. The scientific solution is for big powers not to look on this issue as being subjected to their policies, acting this way at one time and that way at another time. All countries, besides the big powers, say that I deal with principles more than any other. From the practical point of view, however, Third World countries have remained subservient.

If all of us in the Third World ask ourselves, we shall say that we are completely free and independent and that the will of the big industrial countries has no influence on us at all. The influence of the will of the big industrial countries on us depends on the extent of our progress in the sphere of science and technology and in the sphere of achieving an economic growth that will be commensurate with the requirements of this new age and that of the demographic progress in our countries. Therefore, if we want to adopt a practical solution, we must stop speaking about principles. The practical solution is the one which we have adopted at several regional and international conferences and which we submitted in a strong, clear and integrated manner at the Havana summit conference. It was also included in our speech on the July [revolution] anniversary. This solution is the establishment of a fund that will commit advanced industrial countries and oil-producing countries. The oil-producing countries will be committed to the extent of the annual increase of the prices of oil that is exported to poor developing countries, and industrial countries will be committed to the extent of the factor of inflation that they export to Third World countries.

Compensation takes place automatically to narrow the gap of backwardness between the developing states, other than the oil states, and the developed industrial states. I believe that the oil states will remain as they are for the foreseeable future. The Third World states are backward, influenced by and connected with the administration of this or that international side in one way or another. Which growth produces a development of the inhabitants? It is the rejuvenating trends of modern life. The oil states do not care for development, science and technology in a serious and developed manner. They get money from their oil and oil moves outside civilization. New sources of energy emerge and technology develops in accordance with the new energy trends, turning oil into a backward source of energy even though oil exists in quite good quantities in the Third World states. However, if oil falls considerably short of demand, science and technology will cease to depend on oil as a basic source of energy and will find new sources. The methods of technology, science and industrial research will develop in accordance with the new sources and oil, which will have a new price, may not find anyone to use it. Everyone will then return to his previous condition.

Therefore, brothers, we urgently asked our Arab brothers to embark on an Arab development project. Our excuse is that we are an oil state. Otherwise, we would have been accused by our Arab brothers of having a personal Iraqi design to benefit from this development project. We still believe that the sum agreed on at the Amman summit is too little. Billions should be allocated.

We should aid our Arab brothers, whose potentials are small, in the development plans. If we consider ourselves one nation, we cannot make a step forward along civilization, saying that Iraq has developed and become like Sweden or Brazil 20 years ahead, if Sudan, Yemen and Mauritania remain backward. On the contrary, this disparity in development will be one of the dividing factors. Therefore, we insist that we shoulder with a collective Arab responsibility the requirements for the Arab countries' development. It is for this reason that we are aiding the friendly developing states within the scope of our potential. Our independence is linked with development, and for the Arab nation to be independent the Third World states should be in a better position. We should view them within a long-range strategic framework, not one of self-interest.

Iraq's relations with Japan are good and we are eager to develop them.

What is the extent of Iraqi-Soviet relations now and why has no Soviet delegation attended the solidarity conference? In fact, we have not asked the Soviet Union to attend the conference. However, a Soviet delegation attended the July celebrations. The size of our economic and cultural relations with the Soviet Union is good. The Soviets have renewed their desire to establish continuous and developed relations with Iraq, heralding good.

There was a question on whether we shall call for an Arab economic boycott of the United States, particularly after the Zionist aggression against the nuclear reactor. We have given our opinion about the aggression. A U.S. journalist asked us if we believe that the Americans are involved in this act in one way or another. We said that there are questions about the Americans. What increases these questions are the U.S. officials' statements. Regrettably, the statements of some French officials are almost on the level of the U.S. officials' statements despite the fact that the French premier denounced this act at the beginning. France should adopt a clearer, firmer and more accurate stand because the reactor is a product of French technology and the level of relations between France and Iraq is different from that between Iraq and the United States.

As regards the Arab stand--and this should go beyond weakness and be an ambitious stand--which should be adopted against any state that harms the Arab nation. Well, if the Arab nation had summoned all those who harm it and said why are your harming us, what have we done to you that you should harm us in this manner, we shall inflict harm on those who harm us, if this had been the case, the Arab nation would not have been harmed by this or that side. Principal among those states which continuously want to humiliate the Arab nation is the United States.

If God wills, and in accordance with the nonaligned states' decision, the coming conference will be held in Baghdad whether there is war or not. This is what we understood from the resolution of the conference of the nonaligned states' foreign ministers, which was recently held in India. This conference was held as the war raged. It actually reaffirmed that the summit conference will be held at the scheduled date.

How do we view PRC-U.S. relations? Every world state is entitled to decide its international relations. However, no world state has the right to inflict harm on the other states through establishing such relations. So far, we have not sensed that through its relations with the United States, the PRC wants to inflict harm on any world state. The PRC is not the only state which has relations with the United States. Very few world states do not have diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with the United States. Thus, we are not among those who believe that the PRC--a big and ancient country--can be used as a tool or machine in the hands of this or that superpower. This is what I think the question meant.

Yes, we do address our greetings to the Venezuelan people and the peoples from whom come those reporters and news agencies correspondents attending this conference.

Group five: The Palestinian issue and Israel: What is required from the Arab oil states for the struggle against the Zionist enemy? Does Iraq demand Israel's expulsion from the United Nations in the coming UN General Assembly meeting? Is it possible for you to recognize a Hebrew state if such a state is removed from Zionism and becomes a secular state that is open to all and if the Palestinians can establish their state? [Passage listing various news media which asked questions omitted]

The president: Iraq's stand in the UN General Assembly will be related to what it aspires for and what will be achieved. We believe that the General Assembly should reach a decision that will be better than the minimum decision adopted by the UN Security Council--and this decision was not satisfactory but is better than nothing. We would be happy if the General Assembly reached a resolution in which a stand of solidarity with Iraq against the Zionist aggression is adopted, a resolution that would affect any future Zionist aggression in any form.

As regards the issue of recognizing a Hebrew state, my answer is as follows: First, what the Palestinians have a right to should be specified. It must also be understood that the Palestinians are the ones against whom there is aggression and that there is an aggressive usurping entity called Israel. Then, after the vestiges of such an aggression are removed, well, the Arabs are known for their stand on the Jews and the issue of religions. Indeed, neither the Arabs' history nor their policies are characterized by jingoism toward the Jews. The religion of the majority of the Arabs is clear and so is the religion of the minority of the Arabs. Thus, there is a difference between the way the Jews are viewed and the way an aggressive, expansionist and racist entity is viewed.

Minister of culture and information: Mr President, the sixth group is the internal situation in Iraq. What are the characteristics of the development plan in your country? What are the main objectives? Do you have any economic problems? In your opinion, what is the greatest accomplishment of the 17 July revolution? What is Iraq's policy on the firms in the private sector, particularly in the fields of agriculture and industry? What was the production rate before the revolution and the rate since the revolution? Would you explain to us Iraq's oil policy regarding production, export and prices? What is the current production of the Iraqi oil and how do you export it? What is the role of religion in society? What is your opinion of women and why doesn't the Iraqi woman assume vital positions in Iraq, like the position of a minister or a deputy minister? [Passage listing the names of the news media that asked questions omitted]

The president: These are various political, technical and ideological questions. As for the technical questions, I hereby refer you to technicians. The minister of planning is here and you can ask him in detail about the development plan. He is ready to meet with you.

As for the ideological questions, I refer you--regarding two points--to something that has been published and translated into English. The Ministry of Information can inform you about our opinions on religion and on the private sector, as well as our vision of its future and scientific status. We cannot answer this question in parts because we have a very sensitive stand on this.

Regarding the political question, I will answer quickly. There is no country in the world without economic problems, yet there is a difference between economic problems and incurable problems. We neither have any incurable problems nor an economic crisis in Iraq. This is something known to the world's states and companies. Our development programs are progressing in accordance with the scheduled framework, whether regarding their effectiveness or the funds allocated to them. This is happening despite the war.

Our oil policy is based on the fact that we produce to the limit that meets with our development requirements and covers our pan-Arab commitments as well as our bonds of friendship with the world's states. We do not favor the policy of producing and marketing oil in amounts that exceed our commitments lest we stockpile billions of dollars in foreign banks. These dollars would lose their value either by the passage of time or by the stock exchange.

Regarding the question about the greatest accomplishment of the revolution, I say that it is the new Iraqi individual, who is the fruit of all the other accomplishments in the various cultural, political, scientific, technical, economic and social spheres. The extent and nature of this great accomplishment is demonstrated in the spheres of construction and scientific and technical development as well as in the sphere of defense. The Iraqi individual has been defending Iraq against a foreign aggression that is armed with modern U.S. weapons. This is the greatest accomplishment.

Current oil production is less than the normal production rates that prevailed before the war. However, I will not tell you about the amount of this production or how we export it because we are a country in a state of war. I don't want to give you a diplomatic or imprecise answer.

Our stand on the woman is clear. We are against the ideas and the mentalities that place the woman in a position secondary to the man or place her under the custody of the man. We do not look at the woman from a predominate viewpoint. We look at her as a human being, as an Iraqi citizen who must and should participate in the new conditions in the various positions of responsibility. The woman can occupy any position if she is qualified for it. We say this not for the sake of appearances, but because the woman is qualified and capable.

We do not believe in appearances--that is, we do not appoint 10 Kurds in such and such positions so that one can say that there are Kurds or 10 people from An-Nasiriyah, and we do not appoint 20 women because they are women. We do not believe in such a policy. Iraqis compete for positions on the bases of their capabilities and qualifications. Ten ministers from Basra may be in positions of responsibility by accident. We do not take this into consideration and we do not ask them about the province they come from. Also, there may be 10 ministers who are all women. This is a natural thing to us. Allocating positions that will only be occupied by women is not part of our policy. You, however, know that Iraqi women have occupied the position of minister. However, now we have no woman as part of the Cabinet. In the past, however, and during our rule, women have occupied the post of minister. There are Iraqi women who are director generals, directors of establishments, members of the National Assembly, senior officials in the Ba'th party, engineers and physicians and in other positions in society. Any one of you who visits any college or institute will find that there are many women in them and will then realize the progress women have achieved in the social and cultural field.

The minister of culture and information: The last two questions are about the president's viewpoint on the Lebanese crisis and how to solve it. Will it be a Lebanese and Arab solution or what? The second question is about relations with Canada, especially after the recent decision that the Canadian Government has made to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The president: Concerning relations with Canada, we have diplomatic and economic relations with it. However, we have a remark to make about Canada's stand in the International Atomic Energy Agency. Its stand there was not good in the wake of the blow that was dealt to the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

On the Lebanese crisis and on whether the Lebanese solution will be a Lebanese one or a Lebanese-Arab one, if the Arabs offer assistance without personal motives, this means that they are carrying out their pan-Arab duties. If they cannot offer assistance, then it would be better to leave Lebanon alone, without any interference, any problems, any conspiracies or any aggressions. In this case, Lebanon will surely succeed in solving its problems if interferences, aggressions and hegemony are absent. As to how the Lebanese will solve their problem, they are the ones who are more capable of replying to this question. However, they find it difficult to reply to this question because they do not have one command which decides Lebanon's future. They have many commands. Therefore, we are required to help them in a brotherly manner, by guidance and without any interferences.

We declared our opinion on this subject at the beginning of the Lebanese crisis. Our stand is stipulated in a dossier, copies of which are printed and available in Lebanon. Our stand has not changed and is still the same one which we declared at our meeting with the Arab jurists or Lebanese jurists in the National Assembly in 1976. The crisis had just begun at that time, because the war broke out in 1975. Every faction in the Lebanese arena believed that it was the right one and the rest were wrong and that everyone should follow its solution. This is wrong.

Inasmuch as we talked about the Arab situation and joint pan-Arab responsibility, we talked about the situation in Lebanon within the same context. Dividing Lebanon into a nationalist street or a nonnationalist street or on the basis of religion is also wrong. There are traitors and bad individuals among the Muslims. Similarly, there are traitors and bad individuals among the Christians. There are good individuals here and there. Also, dividing Lebanon on the basis of classes for reaching a solution is wrong. The concept that says that the solution of the situation in Lebanon dictates that the Christians should take all they want in accordance with population size and weight is also wrong, because this entrenches sectarianism in one way or another. What achieves equality is that we must proceed from a realistic but a principled concept.

After the war the Christians in Lebanon became afraid of the majority. Therefore, we must find a solution that assures the minority with regard to its concern over the majority by means of nonnationalist, nonpatriotic and nonfraternal methods.

These are the principles which we believe can solve the Lebanese situation. We said this earlier and some tried to distort it in their writings and statements. We have no personal objective. We are geographically far from Lebanon. You know that we have no personal objective in Lebanon. We wish Lebanon stability and prosperity. If Lebanon restores its normal situation which prevailed before the war, this will be a big gain for us. I believe that the Lebanese, should they have such a chance, must not look for a nonobjective price for the blood that was shed due to mistakes, unprincipled Arab intricacies and dishonest international intricacies.

Thank you for listening. We wish you success.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 406

N221806 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)--Communique No 406 issued by the Armed Forces General Command here today said that the Iraqi forces on the battlefront forced groups of the Persian enemy infantry and charlatan Khomeyni guards in Nowsud to retreat, disappointed. It added that during the past 24 hours, the enemy sustained heavy losses in lives, the details of which will be announced tomorrow. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 406 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant armed forces efficiently and capably pounded the forces of the ignorant racist Persian regime in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today. The results are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our brave forward units clashed with groups of the enemy infantry and charlatan Khomeyni guards in Nowsud. Following a fierce battle, the enemy was forced to retreat disappointed and having sustained heavy losses in lives. The details of these losses will be announced in our communique tomorrow.
B. Three killed and one infantry position destroyed in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab.
C. One armored personnel carrier and one vehicle destroyed in Gilan-e Gharb.
D. Seven killed in Sumar.
E. Five killed in Mehran.
F. Our units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in Dezful, killing eight and destroying one excavator and one observation post.
G. One vehicle and one excavator destroyed in Shush.
H. Two infantry positions destroyed in Khafajiyah [Susangered].
I. One vehicle destroyed in Ahvaz.
J. Seven killed and one infantry position, one tank, one armored personnel carrier one excavator, five stockpiles of hardware and one observation post destroyed in Abadan.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 30 killed, 4 infantry positions, 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 3 vehicles, 3 excavators, 5 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One mortar damaged.
C. This morning, the Persian enemy shelled with a heavy fieldgun Khawr 'Aballah from the outskirts of Khosrowabad. Most of the shells fell in the water.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 July 1981

SAUDIS TO PROVIDE $140 MILLION IN SUPPORT

NC221726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Following the Cabinet meeting President Sarkis met with Saudi Ambassador Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. On the discussions during their meeting, Ambassador 'Ali ash-Sha'ir said:

[Begin recording] About 2 weeks ago his excellency the president instructed me, in the presence of Oil Minister Yusuf Baydun, to convey to the Saudi Government the current oil crisis Lebanon is suffering from. I then conveyed to Saudi officials this situation and all the explanations made by His Excellency Minister Baydun. I am pleased now to have conveyed to His Excellency President Sarkis that the Saudi Cabinet decided at its latest meeting to offer $120 million to support the Lebanese budget and to pay off its commitments to the Tapline Company and to ensure oil will continue to be pumped to the Az-Zahrani and Tripoli refineries. Thus, we have settled this crisis, thank God.

I also briefed his excellency on the text of the cable I received from His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, providing that his majesty's government has ordered the payment of $20 million to be placed at the disposal of his excellency the president. The sum has been transferred through the central bank to pay for the urgent essential needs resulting from the criminal Israeli aggressions on southern Lebanon and certain areas in the capital. His excellency the president expressed his wish that I convey to his majesty the king and the Saudi Government the sincere appreciation and greetings of his excellency and the Lebanese Government and people. We also reviewed certain issues pertinent to the work of the Arab followup committee at its forthcoming meeting this Saturday.

[Question] Are all things proceeding well politically?

[Answer] I have found nothing to prompt me to say no.

[Question] Do you expect anything specific from the Tunis joint Arab defense council meeting?

[Answer] You can ask this question to parties who are more concerned about it than I. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS 22 JUL

NC221644 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] New Israeli aggressions were launched on southern Lebanon this afternoon following the new UN Security Council resolution and the duration it specified for a cease-fire. At 1400 [1200 GMT], Israeli aircraft strafed the Az-Zahrani, Al-Hamra' and Al-Hajjah areas and destroyed the makeshift bridges that were established to facilitate the citizens' crossing. At 1410 Israeli aircraft bombed (Al-'Aqibyah), near As-Sarafand. At 1415 Israeli aircraft renewed bombing the Az-Zahrani area and at 1420, the Israelis concentrated their artillery shelling on the areas of (Hursh an-Nabi Tahir), the Beaufort Castle and An-Nabatiyah.

At about 1400 Israeli aircraft raided the Al-Qasimiyah area and renewed bombing the bridge and its perimeter. Initial reports say that the raids on Al-Qasimiyah and Az-Zahrani have left at least 50 casualties, including approximately 18 killed. Most of the casualties were civilians who happened to be passing through the area. Scores of civilian cars can be seen on the Az-Zahrani bridge destroyed with their passengers inside killed or wounded. Some of the casualties are horribly mutilated.

A national news agency correspondent in the south says that the Israeli raids destroyed the main oil pipeline that carries oil from Saudi Arabia to the main tanks in (Tallat al-Musaylih). Dense clouds of smoke and fire can be seen in the area.

At 1430 An-Nabatiyah and adjacent villages were shelled, but the number of casualties is unknown. Reports from southern Lebanon this afternoon affirm that there are unusual Israeli military concentrations and preparations in the area. The UNIFIL command is notifying UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim about developments and the extent of Israel's response to the new Security Council resolution, as the 48-hour duration is aimed at arranging the cease-fire and not for launching new operations.

Further Report

NC221756 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] At 1630 [1430 GMT] today Israeli aircraft raided Al-Qhaziyah township, which lies 5 km south of Sidon. This is the second raid, which follows the raid carried out by Israeli aircraft this morning on Az-Zahrani and (Al-'Aqbiyah). Artillery shelled the An-Nabatiyah area; 26 persons were killed or wounded.

Israelis Attempt Landing

NC230647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Last night, precisely at 2300, Israeli helicopters flew over Az-Zahrani, Al-'Aqbiyah and As-Sarafand dropping flares. The enemy attempted a landing operation in Humin at-Tahta and the Al-Qantarah area which was intercepted and foiled. Before midnight Israel shelled the Ar-Rashidiyah camp. Vehicular movement was observed in (Ar-Risham) and air activity over the Sujud and 'Arab Salim area drew ground fire until a late hour last night. In retaliation for the Israeli shelling, several Israeli settlements were shelled.

PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR USE OF ARAB 'OIL WEAPON'

NC231323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1317 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] At the session that lasted until 1400 [1200 GMT] today, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the recommendation passed by the Chamber of Deputies joint subcommittee at their last meeting Monday after approving an amendment proposed by certain deputies. The amendment provides for asking the Arab countries to chart a joint Arab strategy and implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council, the Arab League, the Arab summit conferences and the concluded agreements. Another amendment was added to the subcommittee's recommendation as well as a proposal calling for the use of the oil weapon against countries that stand against the interests of Lebanon and the Arab cause.

HADDAD URGES LEBANESE TO RISE AGAINST 'OCCUPIERS'

NC230817 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] This morning Major Haddad, commander of free Lebanon, addressed the following appeal to the Lebanese:

My brother Lebanese: I need not remind you of the tragedies and afflictions which have beset us and our dear homeland, Lebanon, as a result of the Syrian-Palestinian joint occupation. Everyone of you is aware of what he has suffered and is suffering from the foreign occupier of his land. We have golden opportunity at present--an opportunity of which we have dreamed quite often, the opportunity of finding those who would help us to deal a fatal blow to the saboteurs.

Israel is the one which can realize this for us. Israel, by its successive blows, is about to destroy the armed foreigners who are present in Lebanon, to expel the occupiers and to restore unity among all the Lebanese people under the canopy of independence. I call on all the Lebanese to seize this unique opportunity. I particularly call on my brothers in the occupied areas to immediately begin hitting the occupiers wherever they may be. I also appeal to my brother Lebanese in the liberated areas to begin shelling the saboteurs' camps and military camps that are within the reach of their weapons. At the same time, I appeal to the free world not to listen at all to those who claim to be responsible in Lebanon and who are crying over the saboteurs and Lebanese sovereignty, because the saboteurs themselves are the ones who have destroyed Lebanese sovereignty over 6 years ago. Those who try to defend these saboteurs are traitors to their own people and homeland because Lebanon cannot possibly regain its health except after crushing or expelling the saboteurs in Lebanon for good.

Lebanese, your country is calling you. Rise in response to its call and serve and rescue your country. If you do what I am asking you to do, you will succeed and you will rescue your honor and homeland. If you hesitate, you and Lebanon will be destroyed for good. Long may you live. Long live Lebanon.

[Signed] Major Haddad, commander of free Lebanon

AL-WAZZAN BRIEFS DELEGATES TO DEFENSE COUNCIL

NC231127 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] At 1100 today President Ilyas Sarkis received Defense Minister Joseph Skaf and Chief of Staff Maj Gen Ahmad al-Haj prior to their departure for Tunis with other members of the Lebanese delegation to the joint Arab defense council meeting which will meet tonight to discuss the Lebanese situation.

Members of the Lebanese delegation had earlier visited Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The delegation includes Ghassan Tuwayni, Husayn al-'Abdallah, 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulh and staff Brig Gen Nabil Quraytim, the secretary general of the Supreme Defense Council.

After the meeting Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that the delegation was briefed on the political situation and the directives agreed upon between President Sarkis and himself.

Commenting on yesterday's Israeli attacks, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that Israel was waging its attacks by exploiting the time given to the UN secretary general by the Security Council to implement its resolutions. I believe, he said, that if this situation continues, which is against the international will, it will inevitably have alarming consequences for relations among states, particularly in what we sense from the Arab states and other countries--and especially the United States, which so far constitutes the political and military cover for Israel.

He was asked about Israel's apparant determination to isolate the Lebanese areas with yesterday's shelling of two bridges. Al-Wazzan said: Against that determination there is a stronger determination by the Lebanese people and government to defend Lebanese territory and safeguard its integrity.

Asked whether Lebanon will request direct military support from the Arab states, he said: We have requested nothing so far. We had called for a unified Arab strategy, but regrettably such a strategy was not drawn up.

Defense Minister Skaf said: We will hear the views of the delegates. We have no subjects for talks. We have been invited by the Arab League Secretariat General to attend and we are responding to this.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON MISSILES, U.S., SOVIET UNION

JN221323 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "Stupid Escalation and Its Objectives," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The criminal escalation of the aggressive Israeli military operations against Lebanon and the Palestinian people is not taking place merely because Begin is prime minister of Israel nor because the fedayeen shelled some Israeli settlements in northern Galilee as Begin and some of Israel's rulers claim. This escalation is taking place in accordance with a studied design and for certain purposes.

However hard the U.S. Government may try to pretend that it is detached from this design by making statements denouncing mutual acts of violence and spreading news for Arab consumption of alleged differences between Washington and Tel Aviv and on the brutal Israeli air raids taking place with U.S. aircraft and arms, the U.S. fingerprints are apparent in the escalation process and the U.S. purposes behind it are clear.

In his speech to the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, President Hafiz al-Asad referred to the objectives behind this escalation and design and to the responsibility of imperialism for the present circumstances, which were planned a long time ago. Imperialism is now trying to reap the gains and make them as profuse as the seeds that were sown and the intentions which were harbored.

What do they hope to gain from aggressive, brutal actions and from pushing things toward a major clash?

One of the declared objectives is to wipe out the Palestinian resistance to annihilate the Palestinian people as a cause for Israel, the United States, the world and the Arabs whose hearts beat for the United States. This will facilitate excluding the Palestinians from the Arab and Lebanese arenas and from any negotiations on a settlement in the region.

However, it is possible to attain this goal by means of air raids, shellings crimes and even combing operations? Israel tried this method in the past but met with no success. In spite of massive losses, the Palestinian resistance has remained alive and effective. Its moral and materialistic strength has increased. The number of countries recognizing the PLO is greater than those which have exchanged diplomatic representatives with Israel.

Israel's security is no more stable than it was in the past. The Palestinian resistance inside the occupied land is becoming stronger and more efficient in the political and military fields.

Brutal air raids will not vanquish the Palestinian resistance on the Arab, Lebanese and international levels.

The newspaper goes on to say: Al-Asad declared that one of the objectives in the entry of the Syrian forces into Lebanon was to protect the Palestinian resistance, and this objective still stands. Obstacles which existed in the past will not hinder expanding the area of security in Lebanon and reducing the opportunities for unpunished Israeli belligerence on the way to ending this belligerence and making the price of these attacks very dear indeed.

TISHRIN adds: One of the objectives of the aggression is to remove the effects of the moral defeat suffered by Israel as a result of the Syrian stand on the Israeli threats regarding the Syrian missiles and to pave the way for an atmosphere in Lebanon to raise the issue of the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon based on the claim that Syria is unable to protect the Palestinian resistance or to confront Israel in Lebanon.

This claim was made by Pierre al-Jumayyil and others in Lebanon. However, this objective will never be achieved.

The Syrian missiles stayed and Begin's threats went with the wind. The Syrian missiles will not remain limited to certain circles, nor will they be withdrawn at the request of Israel or Philip Habib. They will be positioned where necessary and will be ready to defend the Syrian forces in Lebanon and, consequently, the Lebanese and Palestinians. No matter what it costs, Syria will not allow Lebanon to become an extension of Israel's security or a promenade for the Israeli forces. The Syrian forces will stay in Lebanon for Lebanese, Syrian and pan-Arab reasons. Nothing pertaining to these forces will be decided by Israel and its agents or in negotiations with Washington and its envoys or those following its trial.

The criminal Israeli escalation will not affect the Syrian decision in Lebanon.

One of the objectives behind the Israeli escalation of aggressive operations is to pave the way for a U.S. settlement in the region by means of cutting Syria down to size on the Arab level, striking it militarily and paralyzing its ability to continue its confrontation with imperialist and Zionist designs. This objective is impossible to achieve as well. Killing hundreds of children, women and old people will not resurrect the defunct Camp David accords, nor will it invigorate and enliven the U.S. designs to impose hegemony over the Arab nation and its resources or force the Arab countries to surrender to Israel.

The newspaper concludes: Under the leadership of President al-Asad, Syria cannot be cut down to size on the Arab and international levels. No one can defeat it on the military level. Our people and armed forces are prepared to confront aggression with courage and strength and without hesitancy or fear. Syria is capable of reacting to every blow with a blow of the same kind and of confronting every threat with a weapon and with the ability to acquire such a weapon.

If Israel feels assured that it will find support from the United States, it will find the Soviet Union supporting Syria. The U.S. settlement will not pass. The Arab homeland will not become an American state and Begin will not turn into a peacock in the Middle East.

BEGIN, OTHERS REACT TO WEINBERGER'S REMARKS

23 Jul Announcement

TA230749 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0746 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Government press office release]

[Text] The following announcement was made by the prime minister's office:

The U.S. secretary of defense stated that on two occasions Mr Philip Habib was on the threshold of achieving an agreement but this was prevented due to the bombing of the nuclear reactor near Baghdad and the commands of the Arab terrorist organization in Beirut.

The prime minister met frequently, also after these two occasions, with Mr Philip Habib for long hours of talks and has never heard from him such a "statement."

Mr Caspar Weinberger claims that the prime minister does not act "with moderation." This reaction to Mr Weinberger's astonishing remarks is the proof of the prime minister's clear moderation.

Jerusalem's 'Amazement' Cited

TA222113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] This evening Jerusalem reacted with amazement to the accusations leveled by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to the effect that Israel had twice undermined the achievements of envoy Habib by bombing the Iraqi reactor and Beirut. Political circles told our correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, that Israel knew nothing about Habib's achievements. On the contrary, these circles said, Israel acted with patience and utmost moderation and gave the U.S. diplomat sufficient time to solve the problems although he has so far failed to do anything and despite the fact that the Syrian missiles in Lebanon threatened Israel's security. The Jerusalem circles regard as either naive or evil Caspar Weinberger's attempt to define Saudi Arabia as a moderate country, since the latter bears the banner of jihad.

Other Views

TA230548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Jul 81

[By political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer--recorded]

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States, Efrayim 'Evron, has said that this is one of the most difficult hours in the relations between Israel and the United States. Ministers who were asked about this issue answered: There is no crisis in the relations; there are misunderstandings. Such things have happened in the past and one should not get overexcited. One of these speakers must be wrong.

Israel is our friend and our ally--several U.S. administration leaders have said recently. The United States is a friend and an ally--Israeli spokesmen have answered. Is there proof and foundation for this? Lately the U.S. administration has supplied much evidence that it does not view Israel as an ally but as an obstacle to the implementation of its foreign policy. It has been possible to hear criticisms in Jerusalem of the Reagan administration, which is characterized, according to political circles, by instability in all matters concerning Israel.

Ministers are trying to play down the depth of dispute between the two countries. In contrast, the professional levels of the Foreign Ministry have for several months indicated the erosion occurring in Israeli-U.S. relations and the deterioration and misunderstanding characterizing these relations. At the meeting of the Cabinet, which is convening for the third [as heard] time this week, various assessments will be made.

Dr Yosef Burg told me last night that the Israeli Government has no interest in aggravating relations with the United States but there is rather a desire to explain to the U.S. administration that we are struggling for our lives. A high-level official expressed the hope that the Cabinet decision that authorized Philip Habib to continue his mission in the region will help mitigate the tension between the two countries.

The U.S. defense secretary's harsh remarks against the government and Menahem Begin are explained here by the secretary's previous background as an adviser to companies in Saudi Arabia. Another explanation given to the difficult situation developing between Israel and the United States is that there is a clash of interests here. The United States wants to set up an alliance of countries whose aim is to curb the Soviet penetration into the region. Most of these countries are hostile to Israel and active against it. The Israeli interest is to maintain the safety of its citizens even if this damages U.S. chances of consolidating the alliance against the Soviets.

The foreign policymakers, the prime minister and foreign minister have not yet made their remarks. It is possible that following the Cabinet meeting authoritative announcements will be released on the Israeli Government's stance regarding the present argument with the U.S. administration.

U.S. Position Criticized

TA230632 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 23 Jul 81

[By political correspondent Gad Becker]

[Text] The government is reconvening this morning for a special meeting to discuss the situation in the north, the political and military issues and additional issues that have not been discussed in the long Tuesday [21 July] meeting. On the binet's agenda will probably be also the report of the Israeli ambassador to the United States. 'Evron, on his meeting with Secretary of State Haig following which 'Evron said that this is a difficult hour in Israeli-U.S. relations. Indeed, the numerous remarks and moves made by the United States in recent days have aroused amazement and anger in Israel. We do not know where the United States is driving and what its objective is--I was told last night by a senior political source. What was said and done in Washington in recent days increases the instability and danger of deterioration and encourages extremist elements. The Americans are harming their friends and harming peace, the source said.

What gave rise to such a sharp reaction? Israel protested the suspension of the arms supply while its enemies are supported and reinforced incessantly. U.S. behavior is defined as courting of the other party, courting which is expressed by repeated praise of Saudi Arabia, which supports the terrorists, by refraining from directly condemning Syria and the PLO. This courting is arousing a lot of indignation here. It is mentioned since ministers who have expressed their opinions on the issue lately have defined the relations not in a state of crisis but in a state of tension and differences. Israel is talking of the lack of clarity and consistence characterizing the current U.S. approach to us. The United States should have been more satisfied with the Cabinet decision handed to Philip Habib, governmental circles say.

Special anger was incurred due to Caspar Weinberger's remarks claiming that Israel, by its actions, has twice torpedoed the successful conclusion of the missile crisis in Lebanon. Nobody, including Habib, told us a thing about this, it is said in Jerusalem, and it is difficult to take a serious view of such remarks.

Along with the increasing tension in our relations with the United States, the uncertainty regarding the chances of quiet in the north continues. Habib may arrive in Jerusalem this week with an update on his talks. The recent events in the Israeli-U.S. relations, against the background of crisis in Lebanon--we were told by the political source with whom we talked last night--reinforce the view that Israel should follow its own course and act according to its needs.

BEGIN VISITS NORTHERN SETTLEMENTS ON 22 JUL

TA221211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin visited Nahariyya, Qiryat Shemona and Metulla this morning. He encouraged the residents and again promised that a day will come when no Katyushas will fall. He said that in its operations yesterday the IDF destroyed three of the terrorists' 130-mm artillery pieces, one of which fired at Nahariyya. Mr Begin toured the northern settlements accompanied by the chief of staff and the commander of the northern command. He told reporters that in his talks with U.S. envoy Philip Habib the term "cease-fire" was not used; rather, the term "peaceful relations with Lebanon" was used, and if Habib interpreted this to mean the first step toward a cease-fire, this is his right. The prime minister said that the U.S. envoy is currently meeting with the Lebanese president because Israel had told him it would not authorize him to negotiate with the terrorist organizations.

Mr Begin said that Mr Habib would return to Israel either tomorrow or the day after.

In Qiryat Shemona, the prime minister held a consolation visit with the Dayan family, whose son, Shim'on, was killed by the terrorists' Katyusha shells. He concluded his tour of the city with a meeting with members of the appointed local council and IDF officers administering the city's affairs.

Several dozen inhabitants demonstrated, holding placards: This is the end-of-season sale! Many others called out: We will not leave!

The prime minister visited one of the shelters and noted the high morale of the inhabitants.

Earlier. the prime minister visited Nahariyya for about 90 minutes, visiting, among other places, the graves of the victims of the shellings and paid a courtesy call on their families. Near the town hall the crowd greeted him with calls: Begin, king of Israel.

In Metulla the prime minister met with the members of the local council and conferred with the commander of the Christian militia, Maj Sa'd Haddad.

Menahem Begin said that it is the country's duty to defend its citizens, adding that it is our right to act against the terrorists in any way, so that the blood of the citizens not be spilled.

Our correspondent reports that ministers Yitzhaq Moda'i and Yisra'el Katz also visited Qiryat Shemona today.

BEGIN ANSWERS CRITICISM OF LEBANON POLICY

TA230846 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin accuses the group of about 20 intellectuals and writers who protested to him yesterday against killing of civilians in Lebanon of double standards. In his letter of reply, the prime minister says that governments headed by the Alignment had in the past instructed the IDF to act against a civilian population on the other side of the border in retaliation for the hitting of the Israeli population. Among other things, Mr Begin mentions the bombing of the town of Irbid in Jordan, where 34 civilians were killed, the air force's bombing of terrorist targets near (Asalt) and artillery fire at Arab villages opposite the Bet She'an sector.

The prime minister comments that this is only a partial list and from one front only. In all these cases firing was launched directly at civilian population. He says he cannot recall that when these actions were carried out in retaliation the signatories of the present letter [of protest] sent any letter to the prime minister.

The prime minister has thus replied to the letter sent him by professors and writers, members of the Labor Party's Circle 77 and members of the Peace Now Movement. They wrote that Israel will not be cleansed of the destruction it wrought on a civilian population and will also have to pay a heavy political price.

PETITION URGES GOVERNMENT TO END LEBANON ATTACKS

TA221917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Dozens of public figures and politicans from MEPAM, SHELI and HADASH call on the government to put an immediate end to the attacks in Lebanon. They also urge all parties to respond to the UN Security Council's decision on stopping the fire at once. Sixty people are signed on the petition, among them Prof Ernst Simon, Eliyahu Elyashar, Dr Mati Peled and 'Uzi Bornstein.

MILITARY DENIES BOMBING LEBANESE OIL FACILITIES

TA230518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Israeli military sources denied that air force planes yesterday bombed any oil installations in southern Lebanon. These sources emphasized that the planes attacked only once in southern Lebanon and the attack was directed at the Al-Qasimiyah bridge area and in the area of the estuary of the Az-Zahrani River. All the planes returned safely to base. According to reporters in southern Lebanon the air force planes hit two improvised bridges in the Litani area and a Tapline Company oil pipeline near the refineries in Az-Zahrani. According to the reporters, the oil pipe was still in flames as of late evening. Beirut radio reported that 18 people were killed and 50 were injured in the bombings.

IDF DENIES PLO CHARGES OF ATTEMPTED LANDING

TA231121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Military sources in Israel flatly deny terrorist allegations that they had repelled this morning two IDF attempts to land attack units from helicopters in southern Lebanon. A PLO communique states the operations were directed against PLO strongholds in the villages Al-Qantarah and Humin at-Tahta. The PLO also claims that Israeli missile boats this morning shelled the Ar-Rashidiyah refugee camp near Tyre.

PERES TO REFRAIN FROM ARGUING WITH BEGIN

TA230825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said last night that under the present circumstances in the north he will not conduct arguments with the prime minister on the latter's policy. He said this in an activists' rally in Haifa:

[Begin recording] There are poeple who sit in shelters since Katyushas are fired and blood is shed. This is not the right time for me to enter an argument. I can say today that we have a proposal by Philip Habib to conduct negotiations on a bilateral cease-fire that pertains to all hostilities and we support this. I will not now settle any accounts and will not conduct any political or partisan arguments. [end recording]

CEAO DEFENSE PACT SESSION BEGINS IN DAKAR

AB221310 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpts] The session of the ministerial council on the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD] linking the West African Economic Community [CEAO] member states and Togo has just begun in Dakar. Senegal has been appointed president of the council.

The new president, Moustapha Niasse, who noted that the OAU has clearly chosen to stand against violence, recalled the mission of the ANAD:

[Begin recording] When our heads of state and government signed the accord on 9 July 1977 in Abidjan, they followed the principles laid down by the UN and the OAU, which is in line with international law and with the profound aspirations of our respective brotherly and friendly peoples. In fact, this is the only means of strengthening the ties among our nations and their solidarity with a view to making it possible for them to achieve their development in peace and unity.

The agreement linking our respective countries is not a defense pact implying the integration of the armed forces of member states. Its objectives, as adopted by all member states, essentially aim at avoiding the use of force to settle disputes among the signatory countries and at committing these countries to granting mutual assistance in case of aggression against one of them. The agreement also seeks to secure greater efficiency in defense matters by putting together the means of member countries and coordinating the use of those means within a swift, efficient framework. It aims at establishing cooperation in defense matters on the basis of mutual interest and equality, especially in the implementation of the tasks which the signing of the agreement and the subsequent protocols implies. Lastly, it aims at ensuring the individual and collective security of the countries concerned on the basis of true mutual respect for our institutions and options.

There is a need for such a legal instrument, to say the least. The economic and social integration of African states, which is a fundamental objective of our organization--the CEAO--would be a mere dream if we did not create an instrument such as the ANAD to ensure the security and stability of our states at all events. [end recording]

It must, however, be recalled that the protocol providing for the implementation of the ANAD has not yet been adopted and it would henceforth be gratifying if the current ministerial session comes out with one to be submitted to the summit of heads of state scheduled to take place in our country next October.

ALGERIA

ENERGY MINISTER NABI INTERVIEWED ON ENERGY ISSUES

PM221038 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 8 Jul 81 p 5

Mohamed Chabbi interview with Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi in Algiers: "We Should Experience Further Tension Before the End of the Decade"--place and date not given]

[Text] LE CONTINENT: The present situation seems clearly unfavorable to the oil-producing countries. Do you think that this trend will continue?

Belkacem Nabi: There is reason to think that this situation will continue for a time owing to the extremely large stocks--5 billion barrels per day--held by the consumer countries. There is no doubt that these constitute a valuable advantage which enables the industrialized countries to exert pressure on the oil-producing countries, whether OPEC members or not.

This is a situation which we predicted back in early 1980. At that time we drew the producing countries' attention to the use which was going to be made of stocks to affect the purchasing power of a barrel of oil. Nonetheless, this situation cannot last very long for several reasons.

The economic situation prevailing in the industrialized countries is changing and growth prospects are fairly favorable for the end of this year and next year. For instance, as far as the United States is concerned, a 1 percent growth rate is now being forecast and estimates are putting the figure at 4 percent for 1982. As far as Europe is concerned, everybody agrees that the recession observed in 1981 will end with a virtual zero growth rate and that there could be a growth rate of more than 2.5 percent in 1982.

Finally, Japan, the third big oil consumer, had a 4.5 percent growth rate in 1960, that rate, it is estimated, will be 3.5 percent in 1981, and there is a talk of a rate of around 5 percent in 1982. Overall, the graph registered in the Western countries in 1981 will change direction. Given this outlook, energy consumption cannot continue to stagnate. In the longer term we think that normal growth in the Western countries should lead to an imbalance between oil supply and demand. And we should experience new tension before the end of this decade.

To sum up: The present situation is a special one. It is artificial as far as oil supply is concerned, owing to excessive production by some countries. But in the medium and long terms this situation is bound to change in favor of the producing countries.

LE CONTINENT: What strategy does Algeria intend to adopt in order to swing the market in the producers' favor?

Belkacem Nabi: For our part we are maintaining our policy of solidarity with the oil-exporting countries and we are still advocating production which takes account of the long-term prospects for supply and demand in energy. Finally, we are anxious to defend the price of a barrel of oil by including it in the big international debate. In this context Algeria is campaigning for practical and influential action by the OPEC countries vis-a-vis the Third World countries, whose consumption increased by 1 million barrels per day in 1981.

LE CONTINENT: Saudi Arabia shook OPEC at the recent conference in Geneva. Despite vacillations, that country seems to be moving toward a reduction in its production. Is that the result of the meeting of OPEC's African members?

Belkacem Nabi: I do not know whether Saudi arabia has decided to reduce its production. We must wait until things are a little clearer before giving a verdict.

Moreover, the meeting of OPEC's African members must be placed in the context of normal consultations among countries which produce oil of similar quality and which pursue a price policy adopted within OPEC. I think that in a sensitive period like the one through which we are now passing it is only natural for us to consult each other to analyze the situation and thwart maneuvers aimed at dividing some OPEC countries or even at dividing the organization itself.

LE CONTINENT: At the Quito meeting Venezuela advocated a new method of contribution to the OPEC fund based on each member state's gross national product. What is Algeria's position on this subject?

Belkacem Nabi: The OPEC countries must show solidarity with the poor countries by various kinds of transfer: It is in their interest and in the international community's interest to do so. The OPEC fund has means which no longer bear any relation to those countries' needs or to the price of a barrel of oil. The financing of this fund is encountering some difficulties, especially as regards the rules governing the distribution of the contributions among the various member states. The solutions lie in the adaptation of this form of aid and the proposals we made with Venezuela in Caracas are now a necessity. Moreover they are winning increasing support. We must work in that direction with a view to finding acceptable solutions, making it possible to attain the objectives fixed with regard to the aid we wish to give to the developing countries.

LE CONTINENT: What is the state of Algeria's relations with other African countries?

Belkacem Nabi: I think that our practical actions are well known as regards the priority given to supplying some African countries aid for operations such as drilling, geophysical operations and so forth and as regards cooperation with some countries aimed at encouraging autonomous supply and a policy of independence in the energy sphere by mobilizing those countries' own resources.

LE CONTINENT: According to some rumors, the implementation of the gas agreement signed with the Belgian company Distrigaz last April could be made dependent on the settlement of the dispute with the French gas company. Is that true?

Belkacem Nabi: The agreement with Distrigaz has been approved by the two governments. Its implementation is scheuled for next year as planned. (Note: Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Glaes said in this connection that Dutch gas supplied to France passes through Belgium.) As regards the French gas company, there is no lack of good will on our side for reaching an agreement. We think that the changes which have taken place in France should now increase the chances of reaching an agreement with the French gas company.

LE CONTINENT: What about an agreement with El Paso?

Belkacem Nabi: Discussions are continuing. The two delegations are constantly meeting and negotiating. In any case, I think that the two sides are moving closer together. The barriers which separated them no longer seem insurmountable.

LE CONTINENT: The Algeria-Italy gas pipe line is to be opened before the end of this year. Furthermore, you have decided to stop the liquefied natural gas [LNG] plans. Are you thinking of a second transmediterranean gas pipeline between Algeria and Spain?

Belkacem Nabi: In the context of the 5-year plan, we have been forced to postpone the LNG-3 plan in view of priorities in the sphere of the development and mobilization of national resources. That being the case, we have a number of commitments with Euopean countries. In this connection, we have concluded contracts on the sale of several billion cubic meters of gas. We are busy studying the most efficient means of transport. Once the studies have been completed, the national company for the transport and marketing of hydrocarbons will have disucssions with its partners to find the best solution.

LE CONTINENT: What progress has been made on the problems of the Skikda gas liquefaction factory?

Belkacem Nabi: The situation at the LNG complex in Skikda is improving and we are testing lines which will make it possible to produce 9.5 billion cubic meters per year. The problems have certainly now been overcome.

LE CONTINENT: Although the petrochemicals market is now saturated, Saudi Arabia is planning to build two enormous complexes at Yanbu' in the east and Jubayl in the west. What plans does Algeria have in this sphere?

Belkacem Nabi: Our economies are fundamentally different. The development models cannot be compared. As far as Algeria is concerned, a very major effort has been made, especially in the petrochemical industries. But our projects relate primarily to the needs of national consumption. We now want to reduce the exports of hydrocarbons in whatever form. What we want is to develop the other sectors of the national economy.

LE CONTINENT: At its meeting in December 1980 the FLN Central Committee advocated the development of new energy sources. Nuclear and solar energy seems to have been given priority. Belgium has just offered its aid in these sectors. Is it the only country to have done so?

Belkacem Nabi: No, we are in contact with other European and non-European countries. In this connection France is not excluded any more than any other country.

LE CONTINENT: Do you plan to buy nuclear power stations? From which countries?

Belkacem Nabi: Those questions have not yet been discussed. The government must examine them. Once we have chosen the sites and the conditions for implementing the plans, we will discuss the matter again.

LE CONTINENT: What was the significance of your recent visit to the Soviet Union?

Belkacem Nabi: Algeria and the Soviet Union have well-known relations. That visit was made with a view to increased cooperation, especially since the USSR is the biggest oil-producing country in the world.

LIBYA

SUDAN TO BE REJECTED AT ARAB DEFENSE MEETING

LD230854 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Jul 81

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jul (JANA)--JANA has learned that the leaders of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation have instructed their delegations to the emergency meeting of the joint Arab defense council to be held in Tunis tomorrow [as heard] to reject the presence of the Sudanese delegation and not to talk about the military plan while it is present. The information would be conveyed to the Israelis by the Sudanese delegation through the Egyptian regime's machinery, as has been done in the past, and since the Sudanese regime has revealed its true leanings by formally declaring its recognition of Israel through its alliance and link with the Egyptian regime.

AL-QADHDHAFI VIEWS LEBANON ISSUES, HABIB MISSION

LD221908 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Jul (JANA)--In a statement he made today to JANA, the leader of the Great al-Fatah Revolution said:

It is not the duty of the Palestinians to cease fire as long as their land is occupied, since this clashes with national honor and duty, but civilians should be avoided if the Israelis halt their air and naval raids and their shelling of Lebanese towns and Palestinian camps.

The brother colonel added: The Jews in the northern settlements must be given the chance to leave these settlements safely and to return to the countries from which they emigrated as a result of temptation by the Zionist organization.

The brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi wondered about Saudi Arabia's connections with Philip Habib's mission, pointing out that Saudi Arabia did not agree in the past to become a confrontation state, or was it that Habib's mission had to do with oil?

AL-BASHSHARI INTERVIEWED ON ANTI-LIBYAN CAMPAIGNS

GF222010 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Jul 81 p 11

[Exclusive interview granted to correspondent 'Atif 'Awdah by Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bashshari, Secretary of the Administrative Committee for Revolutionary Information and Libyan" "information minister," inTripoli--no date given]

[Excerpts] Question: The Western media are launching a continuous campaign against the Jamahiriyah aimed at distorting the Libyan role. Is there any plan to counter this campaign?

Answer: Before his visit to Jerusalem, Western media used to describe As-Sadat as the weak man. After his ominous visit, he became the hero of the Western press. This is because of the submission of the western media to monopolies, privilege, multinational companies and intelligence services that serve U.S. imperialism. The campaign we are being subjected to is the result of our brave stand in supporting liberation movement and the people's struggle for their independence and freedom. These campaigns aim at distorting the anti-terrorist Libyan role and at limiting our anti-imperialist activity. They are also aimed at stunting our revolutionary role and intimidating us. The United States confuses terrorist movements with liberation movements. If not, why did stupid Haig, Reagan's secretary of state, describe the Palestinian people's struggle as terrorism? If so, what is Israel doing, and what can we call the actions it is carry out?

Therefore, the campaign is linked to our stand. If our stand changes, the Western media's way of dealing with us will change. Our move to counter this campaign depends on all honorable people in the world. We have a number of cultured friends in the West who explain the Jamahiriyah's viewpoint and reveal the truth.

Question: The Libyan media are talking about threats the Jamahiriyah is facing. What is the source of these threats and how can they be countered?

Answer: The U.S. is aiding an Egyptian-Sudanese aggression attempt against the Libyan people. In this regard, the Egyptian president is massing his troops along the Libyan border and the Sudanese president is massing his troops along Chad's western border under the cover of a broad U.S. campaign to fight terrorism. The goal is aggression against Libya to return it to the U.S. sphere of domination following Libya's strike against U.S. bases after the September revolution.

If any aggression is committed against us by Egypt, Sudan or the United States--taking into consideration that we stopped the military confrontation with Egypt and have transformed the western region into educational and agricultural areas instead of camps--Libya will become another Vietnam.

If the United States decides to commit any aggression against us, it will be the loser and will pay heavily for its terrorism. In this regard, we are not surprised at Numayri's statement to the HERALD TRIBUNE, in which he said he insists on killing the colonel [Al-Qadhdhafi] and that he is ready to place all his resources at the disposal of a professional to commit this crime.

Question: What is Libya's stand toward the Gulf Cooperation Council?

Answer: Defending the Gulf is the responsibility of the Gulf countries. The actual threat being posed to the region is the U.S. threat, aided by the Rapid Deployment Force. We support the idea of asserting the freedom of the Gulf people and preserving Gulf security in any way deemed appropriate, without any foreign intervention of whatever origin. We also share the opinion that there is a premeditated U.S. attempt to intimidate the area with an imaginary danger. This is being done only to give the United States a pretext for intervening in the region in one way or another.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA, COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER MEET 18 JUL

LD181433 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jul 81

[Text] Tunis, 18 Jul (TAP)--President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Mohamed Harmal, the secretary general of the Tunisian Communist Party. Mongi Kooli, minister attached to the prime minister, attended the meeting.

In a statement following the audience, Mohamed Harmal said that he had had the honor of meeting the president of the republic--the first meeting of its kind and an important and positive initiative. He added: I took this opportunity to express to the head of state our satisfaction with his decision to permit the publication of AT-TARIQ AL-JADID. Within this framework I suggest that the head of state take new measures to continue the purification of the political atmosphere, including the annulment of the 1963 decision relating to the suspension of our party's activities.

PRESIDENT LIFTS MEASURES BANNING COMMUNIST PARTY

LD181655 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 81

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has released the following communique: In accordance with instructions given by his excellency the president of the republic, the measures adopted in January 1963 concerning banning the activity of the Tunisian Communist Party have been lifted. Therefore, the Communist Party becomes a legitimate, recognized party.

DJIBOUTI

OPPOSITION LEADER INTERVIEWED IN PARIS BY LE MONDE

PM221445 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Jul 81 p 20

[Philippe Decraene report: "Ahmed Dini Denounces 'Tribalist Policy' of President Hassan Gouled"]

[Text] Ahmed Dini, prime minister of Djibouti from 15 July through 17 December 1977, who has been staying privately in Paris for a month, is preparing to return home. Head of the opposition since he resigned to manifest his disagreement with Hassan Gouled, who was reelected president of the republic 12 June, Dini will have made numerous unofficial contacts before his departure, which is planned for on or about 14 July.

"Either France will bring its state interest and Socialist options into harmony or else it will continue to directly finance repression and oppression, and the situation in Djibouti will then develop like it did in Chad...." Dini--of Afar origin while Hassan Gouled is of Issa origin--who was for many years one of the most faithful fighting companions of the present head of state, today denounces the latter's "tribalist policy" and at the same time accuses France: "Since independence the former parent country has exclusively supported the Issas. At present there is no French technical assistant, no doctor, no teacher in Afar country...."

Dini, who denounces the fact that "Afar country has been living for 4 years under a curfew regime," asserts that Djibouti is under "a real dictatorship." He specifies in this connection: It is all a question of scale. We have a population which is numerically insignificant. Our territory is scarcely extensive. The nature and emphasis of the Djibouti dictatorship are different from those of other African states, but we too have political prisoners dying under torture...."

The head of the Djibouti opposition is not only "disillusioned" by independence. He says he is "in despair" and asks: "What are the French leaders doing with their option? Are not the Djibouti people, too, worthy of democracy and justice?" In support of his experiences he adds: "In 1974 during the presidential campaign I was locally responsible for candidate Mitterrand....Hassan Gouled is a retired Gaullist who has never been a Socialist, but who has successively belonged to the Rally of the French People, the Union for the New Republic, the Union for French Democracy...." Finally Ahmed Dini emphasizes the fact that not one of the three fundamental demands formulated by the nationalists in colonial times has yet been satisfied: Elimination of prostitution, banning of the sale of Qat, a local drug used as a stimulant, and the destruction of the barrier which isolates the city of Djibouti from the rest of the territory.

In this connection he asserts: "Prostitution has reached such serious proportions that the kadi of Djibouti himself has personally taken charge of a cleanup campaign. The local weekly consumption of Qat has gone from three tons before independence to eight tons today. The wall of shame erected by the secret army is still in place....useless since the population of Djibouti has doubled in 4 years...."

CAMEROON

GOVERNMENT TO PAY REPARATIONS TO NIGERIA

AB221923 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The Cameroon Government has agreed to pay reparations for five Nigerian soldiers killed in a border clash last May. An official statement issued in Yaounde today says the move follows mediation efforts by the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Kenyan President [Daniel] arap Moi, and OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo. The offer to pay compensation was made in a letter from President Ahidjo to Nigerian President Shehu Shagari last weekend. No sum was mentioned by the official statement which said the procedures for the payment of reparations would be examined through diplomatic channels.

The statement also said President Ahidjo has also accepted an invitation from President Shehu Shagari to visit Nigeria at a date yet to be fixed.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO DIRECTS ARMY TO DISPERSE ILLEGAL GATHERINGS

AB221105 Paris AFP in French 0920 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Bangui, 22 Jul (AFP)--CAR President David Dacko has called on the chief of staff of the army, which is ready for action, to supply the troops necessary to disperse all unlawful gatherings throughout the CAR territory.

In an order signed on Tuesday evening, the head of state made it clear that the use of force should include the use of arms. Moreover, all the troops of the CAR Armed Forces have been put on alert. All soldiers on leave in the provinces have been asked to return to Bangui as soon as possible.

Oppositionist Condemnation

AB221727 Paris AFP in French 1525 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Paris, 22 Jul (AFP)--Two CAR opposition leaders, Mr Abel Goumba of the Ubangui Patriotic Front-Labor Party [FPO-PT] and Mr Francois Pehoua of the independent group for reflection and political action, who were in Paris on a stopover on Wednesday, officially condemned the exceptional measures taken by President David Dacko and appealed to the CAR people to resist.

Dr Goumba, the FPO-PT leader, disclosed to AFP that due to his past record in the struggle, he considers himself as the representative of the entire opposition and called on the other opposition movements to join him in order to put an end to the incompetent and disorderly regime in Bangui. When the time comes, he said, I will return to the homeland and I will fight David Dacko with the appropriate methods and with the same vigor with which I fought Bokassa.

Mr Goumba appealed to the people of the CAR to strongly resist dictatorship and at the same time to denounce the person and action of the chairman of the CAR National Liberation Movement [MCLN], Dr Iddi Lala, who had claimed responsibilitiy for the 14 July attack which claimed the lives of three people and left 32 injured in a movie theater in Bangui. On this issue, Mr Goumba recalled that Mr Lala had been excluded from his movement, the FPO-PT, because of serious mistakes.

Dr Goumba expressed satisfaction with Paris' decision to confine French troops stationed in the CAR to barracks. He also said that it was ridiculous for President David Dacko to try to issue an international arrest warrant for him.

FRENCH TROOPS ACCUSED OF BOMBING INVOLVEMENT

AB221333 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Paris, July 22 (AFP)--A Central African Republic opposition leader today hinted at French involvement in last week's bomb blast in a crowded movie theater at Bangui, which killed three people. Francois Pehoua, president of the independent group for reflection and action told a press conference here that according to information he had received from the CAR capital, French troops based in Bangui were among the first to reach the theatre after the bomb went off. They waited for the second blast before entering the shattered building and helping with rescue work.

French troops were also the first to go unhesitatingly to the spot where bombs had been placed but did not explode, Mr Pehoua said. They had offered to defuse them but a French aide to President David Dacko opposed a check on them by the CAR police. Mr Pehoua said the behavior of the French troops was to ensure that the 1,300 strong contingent remained in the CAR. He said he was in favor of a common approach by the CAR opposition movements to the French Government to have the troops withdrawn.

FORMER BOKASSA COMMANDER RECEIVES DEATH SENTENCE

AB221243 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Bangui, July 22 (AFP)--The Central African criminal court today sentenced to death Jean-Piere Inga, a colonel in the army of former Emperor Bokassa. He was found guilty, after a public hearing lasting two days, of complicity in murder and assault in January and April 1979.

The court heard that Inga had fired on a schoolboy at pointblank range when he and his men were hemmed in by demonstrators in Bangui, and also ordered troops to fire on youths who had ransacked his house.

The former colonel had already been sentenced to death in February 1980 along with five others, who were all executed a year later after President David Dacko turned down their pleas for clemency.

Inga's case was ordered retried because of faulty procedure.

It was the first time in the current series of trials of former Bokassa associates, including a former prime minister and interior minister, that the death sentence had been pronounced. Inga, who has three days to appeal, was also ordered to pay compensation to several of his victims.

RWANDA

COMMUNIQUE ON MOI VISIT TO KIGALI 20-22 JUL

AB222024 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Joint communique issued in Kigali at the end of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi's visit to Rwanda on 22 July, read by Rwandan Foreign Minister Francois Ngarukiyintwali]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Maj Gen Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development, His Excellency Mr Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, paid an official visit to the Republic of Rwanda from 20 to 22 July 1981. This visit follows the one paid by His Excellency Maj Gen Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Rwandan Republic, to Kenya from 1 to 4 February 1979, and is within the framework of strengthening the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between these two sisterly republics.

During his visit, His Excellency Mr Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, had fruitful talks with his brother and friend, His Excellency Maj Gen Juvenal, Habyarimana president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the National Revolution Movement for Development. The two presidents reviewed matters of common interest between the Republic of Kenya and the Rwandan Republic, and exchanged views on ways and means to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two brotherly people. To this effect, they praised the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Kenya and His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi informed his counterpart and brother, His Excellency President Juvenal Habyarimana, that a Kenyan Embassy will soon be opened in Rwanda at ambassadorial level. The ambassador will reside in Kigali. The two presidents expressed their satisfaction over the excellent and fraternal relations existing between their two countries and also expressed their firm determination to work toward strengthening them through regular contacts at all levels.

On Kenyan-Rwandan bilateral relations, the two heads of state reaffirmed the need to promote and develop a closer cooperation between Kenya and Rwanda in the fields of transport, communications, trade and cultural exchange, agriculture and animal husbandry, (?foreign) cooperation, insurance and tourism. To this effect the two parties reiterated their firm willingness to (?put into practice) the bilateral cooperation agreements already signed in the fields of trade, air transport and tourism during the official visit of President Juvenal Habyarimana to the Republic of Kenya in February 1979.

Also, to show the importance they attach to the strengthening of cooperation relations between their two countries, the two parties signed a cultural, scientific and technical cooperation agreement between the Republic of Kenya and the Rwandan Republic, and a trade agreement and an understanding on vehicle insurance between their two countries.

During his stay in the Rwandan Republic His Excellency Mr Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, and his delegation visited various development projects and appreciated the progress achieved by the Rwandan people, rallied through the National Revolutionary Movement for Development around His Excellency President Juvenal Habyarimana. They visited particularly the (Dimbo) sugar factory at (Botabelie), the National Institute for Scientific Research and the university laboratory of Butare, the Rwandan National Institute for Agronomy at (Gona) as well as coffee planations at (Sanombe)—which constitute one of the achievements made in the framework of community development works in Rwanda.

On regional cooperation the two heads of state stressed the importance they attach to the realization of regional groupings with a view to promoting the economic and social development of African countries and to contributing, by so doing, to the creation of an African economic community within the framework of a global strategy of economic development of Africa, as defined in the Lagos action plan.

On horizontal cooperation the two presidents expressed their support for current efforts being made with a view to promoting and strengthening economic cooperation between developing countries. This is an indispensable ingredient both for their accelerated development and for the reinformcement of negotiating power with the developed countries.

On international economic relations the two parties stressed the need to pursue the North-South dialogue which is the foundation for the realization of a new international economic order which will be more just and equitable. The two presidents also examined at great length the political situation in Africa and particularly in southern Africa as well as in the rest of the world. In this context, the two heads of state reaffirmed their determination to work toward consolidating the OAU and the total liberation of the African Continent.

Concerning Namibia, they reiterated their total support for the just struggle which the Namibian people are fighting under the leadership of SWAPO to free their territory and called on the international community to take very strong measures to force South Africa to put an end to its illegal occupation of Namibia. Also, the two heads of state reaffirmed their unflinching support for the struggle of the South African people to achieve their national liberation and the abolition of the ignoble policy of apartheid in South Africa.

The two presidents also reiterated their total commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and those of the OAU, as the only solid basis for mutual respect between states and peoples. To this effect, they reaffirmed that Africa requires principles of territorial integrity and of inviolability of borders inherited from colonization and of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states; these principles constitute the prerequisite for peace and progress in our region in particular and in Africa in general.

On the international level the two presidents noted with particular satisfaction the similarity of their views on the great problems currently facing the international community. They reaffirmed their profound determination to work toward the strengthening of international friendship, peace and security, and called on all states to have strict respect for the fundamental principles of the UN Charter, and in particular, the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In the interest of their two brotherly peoples the two heads of state have agreed to meet as often as possible and are convinced that meeting regularly and holding frequent consultations constitutes the pillar for the strengthening of ties of solidarity, friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries. Finally the two parties have decided to create a joint Rwandan-Kenyan commission which will be charged with examining the state of the cooperaion between Rwanda and Kenya from time to time and will make recommendations to the governments of the two countries. At the end of his visit His Excellency Mr Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, has on behalf of the government and people of Kenya, warmly thanked his brother and friend, His Excellency Maj Gen Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development. He expressed his sincere and profound gratitude to the Rwandan Government and people for the warm and fraternal welcome as well as the particularly African hospitality which he and his entourage were given.

Issued in Kigali on 22 July 1981

Signed: Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya and commander in chief of the armed forces; Juvenal Habyarimana, major general, president of the Rwandan Republic and founding president of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development

ZAIRE

AZAP REPORTS ON U.S. AMBASSADOR AT TRADE FAIR

AB222047 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1736 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Kinshasa, 22 Jul (AZAP--Speaking on the occasion of U.S. Day at the Seventh FIKIN [International Fair in Kinshasa], the American ambassador recalled his country's objectives toward Zaire, i.e., an increase in trade for the growth and development of the economic sector, and to contribute to the bettering of the standard of living of the Zairian people.

Speaking on U.S. economic operations in Zaire, the ambassador explained that American investments in this country amount to more than $250 million. Continuing, he said these are mostly in such projects as the expansion of the international hotel chain, of the Matadi flour mills, as well as in Esso-Texaco oil prospecting operations in the central basin and the increase in oil production by the Gulf Oil Company off Zairian shores. President Reagan, Mr [Robert] Oakley continued, attaches an increasing importance to the private sector in America's economic relations with other countries.

Touching on trade between the two countries during the past 5 years (1974-1979), the American ambassador explained that this has increased by 85 percent. In 1979, America's exports to Zaire--including electrical and constructional equipment, as well as those for the extraction of minerals and transportation--totaled $113 million while imports, consisting of cobalt, zinc, coffee, and rubber, amounted to $286 million.

On the American Government's contribution to the development of Zaire, Mr Oakley stated that from 1960 to the present, his government has provided Zaire with more than $600 million in connection with bilateral cooperation and has also supported Zaire through the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and has helped in other activities as well.

Concerning the future, Ambassador Oakley explained that his country will cooperate with Zaire toward revising certain development policies and programs in order to increase the income of the small-scale farmer, to better the health and nutrition of the people, to help make new efforts in the areas of rural development, production, and marketing of agricultural products and to provide technical and financial aid toward training programs.

For his part, Citizen Togba Mata Boboy, the general manager of the FIKIN, expressed his satisfaction with the cordial message of friendship, economic progress and prosperity to all the nations of the world that President Reagan willingly sent to Zaire through American exhibitors.

Having made mention of America's regular participation in the FIKIN, the speaker expressed the great interest that the Zairian people have in the strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

The U.S. exhibit shows the new sources of energy that that country has developed in order to reduce its dependence on oil, while 13 American companies display their undertakings in Zaire.

Ambassador Oakley wrote in the FIKIN's golden book, among other things, that the U.S. made a special effort to be present at FIKIN 81, and this at a time when Zaire is doing its best to recover its economy with the help of its partners and international organizations. In the spirit of the friendly cultural and commercial relations binding our two countries, we address our best and sincere wishes to the Zairian Republic and wish the FIKIN success as well as continuous progress in the interest of economic recovery and for the happiness of the whole people, he added.

MALI

DELIBERATIONS WITH SFRY DELEGATION END 22 JUL

AB221743 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Excerpt] The first session of the Mali-Yugoslavia joint commission ended this morning at the Amitie Hotel. Like the opening ceremony, the closing session was presided over by Mr Boubaca Diallo, the minister of labor and civil service, who represented his foreign affairs and international cooperation counterpart. The essential items on the agenda of this first session included the signing of documents bearing on agreements concerning air transportation and the implementation of cooperation programs in the fields of education, agriculture, science and culture. In his closing speech, the minister of labor and civil service said the joint commission has already fully justified its existence and responds to the hope placed in it.

NIGERIA

NPP REFUSES RESIGNATIONS OF TWO MINISTERS

AB221544 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The Nigerian People's Party, NPP, says it has not accepted the letters of resignation of Professor Ishaya Audu, external affairs minister, and Mr Ademola Thomas, minister of state for finance. In a statement in Lagos today, the NPP pointed out that this was why it had not released their letters of resignation for publication. According to the statement, a high-powered committee has been set up to look into the matter. The committee should start work tomorrow.

Yesterday, both Professor Ishaya Audu and Mr Ademola Thomas said they had specified their intention to quit the NPP because of their disagreement with the break of the NPP-NPN [National Party of Nigeria] accord. As a result of this, President Shehu Shagari had asked them to continue in his cabinet.

NPN STATEMENT COMMENDS SHAGARI REAPPOINTMENTS

AB222135 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The National Party of Nigeria, NPN, has commended the action of President Shehu Shagari in reappointing the minister of foreign affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, and the minister of state for finance, Mr Ademola Thomas, after their resignation from the Nigerian People's Party, NPP. The statement issued today in Lagos said the action was a reflection of the open-mindedness of the NPN in its determination to ensure that progress, stability and good government took precedence over all other considerations. It commended the two ministers for accepting to serve on the president's cabinet and expresses the hope that they would continue to work in the interest of the unity and stability of Nigeria.

PRP ASKS NPN, NPP TO RECONSIDER STANDS ON ACCORD

AB221812 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Excerpt] The National Secretary of the People's Redemption Party, PRP, has called on the executive organs of the NPN [National Party of Nigeria] and the NPP [Nigerian People's Party] to reconsider their stands on their accord. In a statement in Lagos the PRP said only those who are interested in destabilizing the federal government were happy at the notice given for the termination of the accord. The PRP described the termination as a sad and dangerous political development. Unless the two parties reconsider their stands, the statement said, the nation might return to military rule.

COMMENTARY PRAISES HANDLING OF CAMEROON DISPUTE

AB221830 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] It was reported in Lagos on Monday that the Cameroonian Government has agreed to compensate the families of the five Nigerian soldiers killed in a shooting incident at the Nigeria-Cameroon border on May 16. In addition, President Ahmadou Ahidjo has tendered an unreserved apology to the government and people of Nigeria over the incident.

In the letter to President Shagari, the Cameroonian leader described the shooting incident as unfortunate and cautioned that it should in no way degenerate into a formal confrontation between Nigeria and Cameroon. He noted that, in the interest of our old bonds of fraternity and friendship and for the safeguard of our relations of good neighborliness, we must transcend this incident and find a lasting and peaceful solution to it.

With this letter the Ahidjo government has finally shifted positions from its earlier intransigence. The tone of the letter indicates that Cameroon now accepts that the shooting incident in question was an unprovoked attack by Cameroonian gendarmes on Nigerian soldiers performing their legitimate functions at the border area.

It will be recalled that following the killing of the five Nigerian soldiers, including a commissioned officer, the Federal Government sent a strongly-worded protest to Yaounde. In the protest letter, the government demanded an unqualified apology within 7 days, the payment of full compensation to the affected Nigerian families and the apprehension and proper punishment of the murderers. Within the time given, President Ahidjo sent an emissary to Lagos with a statement expressing regret over the loss of lives but maintaining that that shooting incident took place in the Cameroon waters of the Rio Del Rey, which forms the border of the two countries.

As the delegation was leaving Lagos, President Shagari sent another note to Yaounde pointing out that Cameroon did not cover all the ground [word indistinct] in the Nigerian protest letter and, therefore, their response was unacceptable. Feelings of consternation again ran high throughout Nigeria and there were several calls for punitive (?retaliatory) attacks on Cameroon. However, the federal government preferred to resolve the matter by the diplomatic option. For instance, the OAU secretary general recently undertook a diplomatic shuttle between Lagos and Yaounde in a mediation effort.

Now that the Cameroonians have agreed to meet the demands of Nigeria, it can be said that all is well that ends well. But there are a few points that need to be raised. The Government of Cameroon did not require as much as 60 days to respond positively to the Nigerian demands. The consequences would have been grave if the Nigerian Government had responded to their provocative attitude accordingly.

The truth is that it was the mature approach of Nigeria that has prevented a military confrontation between the two countries. But as President Shagari observed in Lagos last Friday in his annual foreign policy address, the patience of Nigeria was not without limits. He noted that the government was resolved to repel by force any external attacks on Nigeria's territorial integrity. This timely warning seems to have been heeded by Cameroon.

The Nigerian official reaction in the face of the provocations of Yaounde was in keeping with the character of the nation's foreign policy, leadership and mediatory roles in African affairs.

It has been repeatedly stated that Africa is the centerpiece of Nigerian foreign policy, and as a consequence of this Nigeria would always want all African disputes and conflicts resolved through diplomatic channels. That is how it should be because conflicts do not produce any benefits for the countries concerned.

While appreciating the latest response from Yaounde, it should be noted that there are some other related matters that also need to be resolved now. This includes an abrogation of the unfortunate Maroua agreement of 1975. It should be noted that that agreement had never been acceptable to successive Nigerian governments, who have rightly regarded it as not being in the interest of Nigerian aspirations. There is an urgent need to resolve the differences arising from that agreement which so far remain the source of friction between tne two countries.

Finally, in spite of its earlier inaction, the OAU Secretariat deserves some condemnation [as heard] for its belated efforts in mediating in the Nigeria-Cameroon dispute. However, while we condemn [as heard] them, the need for those in authority at the secretariat to quickly resolve potential conflicts between member states should not be played down; that is in the overall interest of African unity which the OAU represents.

CORRECTION TO FRG JET AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION

The following is a correction to the item entitled "Air Force Takes Delivery of FRG Jet Aircraft," published in the 22 July Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, T 1:

Paragraph two, first line should read: ...the nation's drive to combat-ready armed forces.

TOGO

NIGERIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH EYADEMA 22 JUL

AB222028 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] A two-member Nigerian delegation led by Alhaji Ali Baba, minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs, was at the presidency this morning. After talks with General Eyadema the Nigerian envoy said that this visit is in connection with the recent border clashes between Nigeria and Cameroon. According to Alhaji Ali Baba, the clashes have been settled amicably:

[Begin recording] First of all, I have come here to convey brotherly and sincere greetings from President Shagari to the president of the Togolese Republic. Secondly, I have come to inform the Togolese president of the development in the Nigeria-Cameroon situation.

You might have been aware that recently, during the past 2 months, the relationship between Nigeria and Cameroon became a little bit sour because of an incident at the border in which five Nigerian soldiers were killed. However, I am happy to inform you that at the very moment I am speaking a solution has been found to this problem and the situation has become normal.

As you are aware, since the beginning of these incidents, President Eyadema has been faithfully seeking a solution to the problem between the two countries. The president's personal efforts combined with those of his minister of foreign affairs and other African presidents have helped us find a solution to the problem, and my presence here is as a result of the solution we have found to this problem. President Shagari sent me here to convey his greetings to you and to express his gratitude to President Eyadema for his help. [end recording]